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CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Antim Panghal during the trials | PARVEEN NEGI

Delhi HC not to interfere in exemption to wrestlers

The Delhi High Court on Saturday refused to interfere with the exemption granted to top wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia from the Asian Games trials and dismissed a petition filed by two grapplers against their direct entry into the Indian squad. Under-20 world champion Antim Panghal and Under-23 Asian champion Sujeet Kalkal had challenged the special treatment to Phogat and Punia. **P11**

DISSENT IN CONG

'Sidelined' Hariprasad makes a veiled attack on CM

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

SENIOR Congress leader BK Hariprasad, who was a strong contender for a ministerial berth, on Saturday expressed his displeasure at Chief Minister Siddaramaiah by indirectly stating that he knows how to make a leader CM and also to dislodge him from that position.

Hariprasad was speaking at a conference of the Ediga community to which he belongs, in the city. "I played a big role in deciding who should be the chief ministers of states ruled by Congress. I am well-versed in resolving leadership issues," he said.

The senior leader's statement indicates that factionalism prevails in Congress though it returned to power in the state with absolute majority. Hariprasad is close to Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar.

Hariprasad seems to be playing the caste card now as he feels sidelined by the party leadership, according to a source.

Quick to react, state BJP general secretary CN Ashwath Narayan said that Hariprasad's statement will be a turning point in state politics. "There is truth in it as it has come from a senior leader who has been in national politics for long," he added. **CONTINUED ON: P5**

A protest near the 'Wall of Remembrance' in Churachandpur | PTI

Meitei exodus from Mizoram

People flee after ex-militant outfit advises them to leave state for their safety; sixth suspect in viral video arrested in Manipur

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR
@Guwahati

GOVT BEGINS DAMAGE LIMITATION EXERCISE

The Mizoram government assured Manipuris of their safety and security and requested them to inform fellow Meiteis, both government employees and students, not to leave the state. They said a press release by the Peace Accord MNF Returnees' Association was misconstrued

ON a day the sixth suspect in the Manipur viral video case was arrested, an exodus of Meiteis living in neighbouring Mizoram began on Saturday.

A routine flight of Alliance Air on Saturday arrived in Imphal from Aizawl, carrying 66 passengers — 56 of them Meiteis, official sources said. They were mostly teachers of different institutes, including Mizoram University, and students of paramedical, veterinary and nursing colleges. The exodus began after an organisation of former militants — Peace Accord MNF Returnees' Association (PAMRA) — in Mizoram asked the Meiteis of Manipur on Friday to leave the state for their "own safety". In Manipur, the Kuki Students' Organisation (KSO) alleged two young Kuki women were murdered on May 4, the day two other tribal women were disrobed, paraded and allegedly gang-raped by a mob.

The police arrested the sixth suspect from Thoubal district. Five suspects, including a juvenile, were arrested earlier. Four of them were sent to 11-day police remand on Friday. "The State Police is making all-out effort to arrest the remaining culprits," Manipur police said.

The KSO claimed there were many more videos similar to what went viral on July 19 and could come out anytime soon. Talking about another incident of May 4, it alleged, "two Kuki girls…from the Kangpokpi district were molested, raped and later, killed at their workplace at Konung Mamang, Imphal."

As for the exodus from Mizoram, apart from the flight, many other Meiteis took the road route to Assam's Barak Valley. Mizoram has over 2,000 Meiteis — half of them from Manipur and the rest from Assam. Many of them work in different sectors, including Central government offices. It was learnt some 300 Meiteis from different parts of Mizoram have gathered in Aizawl. They will leave on Sunday.

AI IMAGES OF HAMPI'S PAST NOW A BIG HIT

AMIT S UPADHYE @ Hubballi

AI images depicting the glorious past of Hampi and the Vijayanagara Kingdom have become an instant hit among heritage buffs. The images were widely shared by officials from the Union Ministry of Culture a few days before the G20 meet was held in Hampi.

Since then, the images have been receiving overwhelming response from heritage buffs and netizens. They depict the erstwhile Hampi market with people moving around and making purchases. Horses, elephants and other animals are also seen in the market. In one of the images, a member of the royal family is seen showcasing jewellery.

"The images are attractive and give a glimpse of the grandeur of the erstwhile Vijayanagara Kingdom, where even jewels were sold in the market," said Nagaraj K, a senior tourist guide at Hampi.

Nagaraj, who was among the guides selected to assist G20 delegates, said Hampi is the most photographed tourist site in Karnataka. A large number of tourists can be seen photographing monuments, temples and other heritage sites at Hampi on a daily basis. Now, pre-wedding shoots are becoming popular at Hampi. Permission from local authorities is needed for photo or film shoots. However, there are no restrictions on cell phone photography at Hampi, he said.

Shivashankar Banagar, a well-known photographer from Hampi, said AI images are attractive. But they do not do justice to the architectural splendour of Hampi. The images resemble the temples located in north India. However, they should have a local flavour, he added.

EXPRESS READ

CM wants Sonia Gandhi to become RS member from Karnataka?

Bengaluru: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is said to have appealed to former AICC president Sonia Gandhi to become a Rajya Sabha member from Karnataka. On April 2, 2024, the terms of three Congress RS members from Karnataka will end, and Congress can retain all the three seats. **P4**

KCR-led BRS to extend support to AAP on National Capital Bill

New Delhi: The K Chandrashekar Rao-led Bharat Rashtra Samithi on Saturday said it will oppose the National Capital Territory Amendment Bill if it comes up for voting in Parliament. BRS Lok Sabha member G Ranjit Reddy said the party will extend support to AAP in opposing the Bill in both Houses. **P5**

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A MEETING PLACE CALLED ART

Alli Serona, a collective for women's welfare, uses paint and brush to bring their real issues to life

PURAN CHOUDHARY
@Bengaluru

IN this world of opposites, art can become a seamless catalyst for communities – for the rich, it can indicate wealth, refinement, and an aesthetic sense. For the poor, it can lead them on a road to empowerment.

The women residing in the Marathahalli Slum Board quarters belong to the informal sector. Breaking from the confines of societal responsibility, they are building a community, empowering themselves and transcending language barriers to address issues, through the limitless medium called 'art'.

Through this mission emerged 'Alli Serona', or 'Let's Meet There' in Kannada. A social impact movement initiated in suburban Bengaluru, Alli Serona aims to bridge gaps and help underprivileged women find their voice in the hustle and bustle of the city. Initiated by civil society groups, creators, and think tanks, Alli Serona brings ideas of the city's informal sector to the fore, to build a more sustainable, low-carbon and economically viable space for all.

When the Alli Serona team landed in the Marathahalli Slum Board Quarters – a housing project under the Karnataka Slum Development Board – they found people from different cultures, geographies, and languages, most of whom working in the informal sector. Being a relatively new settlement, there was no sense of community, and invisible deep-rooted rifts existed among the residents.

As part of its work, Alli Serona integrates art in its myriad forms to energise and empower people. Accordingly, in the last eight months, the women of the quarters have been involved with this collective, meeting weekly for at least two hours, where they share resources, stories and discuss issues. The highlight is art. The women draw rangolis, make patchwork quilts, and paint walls, while reflecting on their role as an informal workforce. This has brought the community closer and shifted the focus towards a common goal, enabling the women to reclaim their space.

Alli Serona Collective Creative Strategist Tanisha Arora tells *The New Sunday Express*, "We are using participatory art practices and culture to make their voices visible and bring them together. In certain settlements, we realised that a lot of communities have never convened before." She adds that if they have never talked about their problems, "How can we discuss climate mitigation? So, we started exploring different routes through art."

Impacting more than 600 women, the Alli Serona Collective has worked across nine settlements in Bengaluru. "We are building bridges for the informal workers to cross over and have a dialogue with decision-makers so that there are more inclusive decisions being made, when the city transitions to an urban economy," Tanisha adds.

Through Art, We Unite

The collective also documents the women's time at work and their heartwarming conversations. In a film titled 'Together in Art', by Falana Films, Alli Serona shows how art can be used to unite people. This led to a series of beautiful artworks and murals across this bustling slum, in partnership with the Aravani Art Project. The works celebrated the women of Marathahalli and the activities that brought them together. The women were delighted that their lives were being acknowledged and represented on the walls. "Earlier, the walls were plain and people use to litter. Now, our area looks vibrant," says Sofia, a resident.

"People have all sorts of things in their hearts – pain, sadness, joy, and everything in between. We make them forget all that by inviting them to paint," says Shwetha T, one of the painters.

Why Serona?

This coming together of women with a thousand tales on an art platform, has motivated them to find solutions for day-to-day problems, while supporting one another.

Addressing issues such as accessibility to public transport and the need for bus frequency and stops near their settlement, have found their way in the conversation. A resident, Chand Bi, shares her plight of travelling long distances, saying, "Going to work is fine, but coming back is tough. I have to walk to work for an hour and my feet hurt."

Conducting interesting activities such as building a mock-up bus stop near their locality are ways how Alli Serona is creating impact. Mobility choices for the informal sector is a major focus area. The collective realised that affordable, accessible, and reliable public transport plays a significant role in facilitating an equitable transition to a low-carbon economy, and chose art as an entry point.

The community itself came up with the movement's name, 'Alli Serona', a symbolic representation of a link between communities, and hopefully, decision-makers and external stak holders in future.

Murals created by women slum dwellers. They meet weekly to discuss various issues that they highlight through their art

Climate Change and the Informal Sector

Informal workers are no doubt among the least polluting, but they are among the first to feel the impact of climate change. According to Tanisha Arora, looking at where these workers usually live, any major natural factors, like floods and pollution, affect them the most. Also, they lack the funds to invest in healthcare, sanitation, and guarding against drastic changes in temperature.

While the free bus rides are definitely a step towards making the public transport system more accessible to the vulnerable sections of society, just making bus travel free is not enough. There is also a need to improve bus frequency, first and last-mile connectivity, and ensure that all parts of the city are well-served

— Tanisha Arora, Creative Strategist, Alli Serona Collective

ALMANAC TODAY
Sunday: 23/07/2023 • Year: Shobhakruta • Ayana: Dakshinayana • Ritu: Varsha • Masa: Adhika Shravana • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Panchami 7.35 am • Nakshatra: Uttharaphalguni 4.41 pm • Moon in Tula Rashi • Rahukaala: 04:30 pm to 06:00pm • Gulikakala: 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • Yamaganda: 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

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Moonset 10.38 pm

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JOY IN PADDY-LAND

Bengaluru professionals now look for happiness in farming activities in Udupi

PRAKASH SAMAGA @Udupi

AMID the cement-ified, traffic-esque, polluted city, there can be an array of amenities, but not tranquillity and exhilaration. There can seldom be a moment of being one with nature, and fathom the depths of one's soul as if far away and lost in the vortex of memories and thoughts.

Siloed from the blaring city scenes, people are now trying to look for happiness in simplicity which is the kernel of rural life. The pastures offer a stark contrast to the dust-engulfed roads and the glittering enticements of malls. Now, the city folks are veering towards a different kind of vacation, which can be called paddy-cation, involving learning various aspects of paddy farming.

In Udupi district, the Kharif season witnessed several students and professionals, who could have chosen other touristy places to relax, coming to the district to dabble in paddy farming. It's experimental though, and not training.

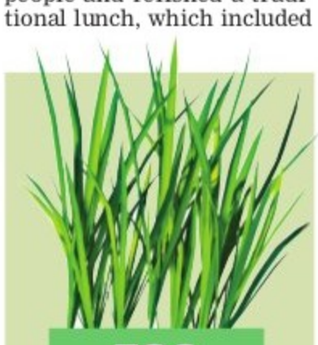
They find bliss as they step into the paddy fields, which they might have seen from trains or cars. Now they are also part of it, inhaling the fresh air in the presence of the lush green.

Last week in Karkala, around 82 students from Bengaluru's Government Ramnarayan Chellaram College of Commerce and Management, MES College of Arts, Commerce and Science, GFGC-Rajajinagar, Seshadripuram Pre-University (Main) College, Maharani Cluster University, and MESKK PU College, jumped into a two-acre paddy field for transplantation.

The activity was organised in association with the Bharat Scouts and Guides, Karnataka, Bengaluru North district.

The tradition of the coastal region left them spellbound. Karnataka Scouts and Guides Chief Commissioner, PGR Sindhia had broached this idea and supported the initiative. Panchami, a student of the MES College of Arts, Commerce and Science, drove a tractor through the paddy field of Jyothi J Pai, the Commissioner of Guides, Udupi district, in Nakre area in Karkala taluk. She said she was enthralled.

Pai said city-based students should understand and enjoy the paddy farming activities, which is the aim of the initiative. After toiling on the field, they were introduced to the culture of the Tulu-speaking people and relished a traditional lunch, which included items made from jackfruit, pathrade, horse gram chutney, parboiled rice, and curry.



ECO ANGLES

The lush paddy fields of coastal region attract city folks and professionals

Students enjoy the paddy farming process and understand the hardship of farmers

The students understood that simple food is the secret of farmers' fitness, she said. Another student from Panchami's college, Kushi said that she feels reinvigorated after experiencing the village life and witnessing the hardships of farmers. "Playing in the slush field and soaking in the beauty of nature have lifted my spirits," she said.

Dr Bhargav Bhat, a young dentist, who has done his Master of Dental Surgery from Manipal College of Dental Sciences, Manipal, took a break from work on Sunday to sweat it out on a paddy field. Dr Bhat ploughed the paddy field at his ancestral home in Japthi, Kundapur taluk, and was appreciated by the locals. He had only watched paddy cultivation since childhood. Last week, packed with suggestions from the locals and with their guidance, Dr Bhat finally entered the paddy theatre. Using a machine, he himself did paddy sapling transplantation.

Social worker G Vasudeva Bhat Perampalli effusively praised the doctor and said he has set an example for others, showing them that paddy farming can bring tremendous joy.

"Youths are engrossed in gadgets even on their holidays, but happiness lies in the midst of nature and following our tradition," he said.

A few weeks ago, at another event organised by Geethananda Foundation in Kota Thattu village of Udupi district, students from Kota Thattu, Padukere, Manoor areas had also engaged in paddy farming.

Team Nation First, which has been working in Udupi for the past 11 years to empower the youth, will also be organising a similar event in Udupi on July 23. Team Nation First president, Sooraj Kidiyoor told **The New Sunday Express that about 200 members of his team will engage in paddy transplantation in a four-acre field near Kidiyoor, Udupi.**

Students from various colleges in Bengaluru try their hand at paddy farming in Nakre village of Karkala taluk

Civil society backs lecturer facing threats for criticising Chandrayaan-3 launch

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A government college lecturer who had received death threats for a post on the Chandrayaan-3 launch has received support from several civil society groups, including Bahutva Kannada.

The lecturer, Hulikunte Murthy, working at the Government PU College in Malleswaram, had posted on the Chandrayaan-3 launch, implying that the mission would fail like Chandrayaan-2 in 2019. In the now deleted post, he had allegedly poked fun at ISRO scientists for visiting a temple with a model of the Chandrayaan-3.

Following the post, the lecturer had been allegedly subjected to online harassment, with many threatening him with death and physical assault, apart from casteist slurs. The issue had also been brought to the fore by former education minister S Suresh Kumar demanding action against the lecturer.

A complaint was filed by Murthy following death threats against his family, after which nearly 30 people were booked by the Kamakshipalya police under various sections. Murthy gained support of civil society groups for getting harassment and attacks on caste and reservations, as well as intolerance against criticism against ISRO.

"The attacks against Murthy also affect those who avail reservation. It shows that after 75 years of Independence, caste continues to divide people. There is also a lack of scientific temper, rationality and humanity in these posts," they said.

Shah virtually monitors explosive removal drill at KIA

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

THE Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) carried out an exhaustive mock drill demonstrating the removal of an explosive placed in an unattended bag at Terminal 2 of Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on Saturday evening. The nearly 50-minute exercise was watched live virtually by Home Minister Amit Shah from the CISF office in New Delhi. The drill began around 5.45 pm.

"Though drills have been carried out in the past, this is the first time such an elaborate one was done with a Remote-Controlled Containment Vehicle used to remove the explosives. All the steps involved in an actual threat situation were emulated," said airport sources. Sophisticated gadgets used world over to manage threats and hi-tech equipments have been deployed.

Around 30 CISF personnel, their canine squad, fire department personnel and an ambulance too were used to facilitate the process.

A Remote-Controlled Threat Containment Vehicle shifts the explosive to a safe area at Bengaluru Airport on Saturday. (Right) CISF personnel defuse the bomb | EXPRESS

The drill involved a large backpack placed at the entrance of T2. "A few passengers around were asked to move away from the spot and the area was cordoned off with barricades," said an eyewitness. The Bomb Disposal Squad rushed to the spot and defused it. It was later placed in the containment vehicle and removed from the spot safely. It has been reliably learnt that the drill had been undertaken within a short period on the instructions of Shah.

EXPRESS READ

Brand B'luru received 70,000 suggestion: DKS

Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar on Sutarday launched a book -- Bengaluru Then and Now -- authored by Doddegowda and R N Chandrashekar at the Sapna Book House in the city. "We have invited suggestions to transform the city under the Brand Bengaluru initiative, and received 70,000 suggestions," he said. The minister also stressed that he is going to get the opinion of children and implement as many suggestions as possible. **ENS**

Tejasvi Surya reviews suburban rail project

Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya on Saturday reviewed the progress of Bengaluru suburban railway project with K-RIDE officials. Surya reviewed the steps taken towards the construction of four corridors comprising a total length of 148.17 km and 58 new stations. Officials informed that the construction for Corridor 2 from Chikkabanavara to Baiyyappanahalli had commenced and was progressing fast. **ENS**

BCU inks MoU with UK varsity for research on Smart cities

Bengaluru City University (BCU) signed a memorandum of understanding with Wolverhampton University, UK, on Saturday. BCU V-C Lingaraja Gandhi is currently on a week-long visit to the UK university to share his expertise on a research project -- Sustainable SMART Cities Coping with Crisis, Lessons from a Global Pandemic. The MoU will enable further collaborations, especially on research on Smart cities. **ENS**

BU postpones PhD counselling

Bangalore University has postponed counselling for PhD programmes for the academic year 2023-24. Counselling was scheduled to start from July 26. However, the university stated that due to technical issues, the counselling has been postponed. The next date for the councelling will be announced soon. **ENS**

The Mangaluru City Police have arrested two persons for allegedly engaging in 'moral policing'. The arrested are Deekshith (32) and Loyd Pinto (32), both from Alape. According to Urwa police, the duo followed a group of six students in Panambur beach on Friday. The students, who were pursuing Bachelor of Hospital Administration, belonged to different faiths

Rapido rider masturbates, woman shares ordeal

Incident after victim takes part in protest against Manipur violence at Townhall; Rider stalks her, police arrest him

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A woman, who came to protest against two women being paraded naked in Manipur at Town Hall in Bengaluru, herself faced sexual harassment while returning home from the protest site.

The woman, Athira Purshothaman -- a media professional, took to social media on July 21 and alleged that her Rapido bike taxi rider masturbated midway and later harassed her through multiple calls and messages.

Athira tweeted her harrowing experience by posting screenshots of inappropriate messages received from the rider.

On July 21, after participating in the protest, she looked for autos to return home. After multiple failed attempts, she booked a Rapido bike taxi.

"Surprisingly, the rider arrived on a different bike, explaining that the one registered with @rapidobikeapp was under servicing. I confirmed my booking through his app and proceeded with the ride," she tweeted.

"During the journey, we reached a remote area with no other vehicles around. Shockingly, the driver began riding with one hand and engaging in inappropriate behaviour (Masturbating while riding the bike). Fearing for my safety, I remained silent throughout the ordeal," she stated. The screenshots shared online showed messages like "Love you" sent by the rider along with multiple calls once the trip ended.

Questioning @rapidobikeapp (Rapido) about its customer's user's safety, she asked "What measures are you taking for background verification? Your users' safety should be a top priority. Please ensure that people registered with your service can be trusted for a safe travel experience. He keeps calling me from different numbers even now!" The police immediately reacted to the Twitter thread and sought details of the incident. At 7.30 pm on Saturday, CK Baba, DCP, South-East division, took to Twitter to announce the arrest of the biker. "Just nabbed a real sicko on wheels. Bangalore City Police won't stand for indecent antics. A criminal case is lodged at Electronic City Police station on the guy who was pretending to be a rapido bike rider," he tweeted.

Couple hijacks tomato-laden truck, arrested

ENS @Bengaluru

A COUPLE has been arrested by the RMC Yard police after they hijacked a mini-truck loaded with two tonnes of tomatoes and sold the goods for Rs 2.5 lakh. The incident happened on July 8, when the vehicle was passing Chikkajala. The accused are identified as Bhaskar (38) and Sindhuja (36).

"Farmer Mallesh, a resident of Challakere, along with driver Shivanna, had loaded the mini-truck with 2 tonnes of tomatoes to be taken to Kolar market from Challakere. When the truck was coming near Chikkajala, the couple along with three others noticed it and decided to hijack it and make quick money," the police said.

According to their plan, they claimed that their vehicle had been damaged by the tomato-laden truck and waylaid it. They threatened Shivanna and asked the two victims to pay for the damage. Shivanna was taken to a nearby ATM, and compelled to withdraw money to be given to the miscreants, police said.

Even after Shivanna paid some money, the miscreants got into the truck, and took it to a deserted place, kicked out Mallesh and Shivanna and drove away. "Based on a complaint from Mallesh, we started investigating and verified CCTV footage in the area," police said, adding that the miscreants reached Vaniyambadi town in Tirupattur district, Tamil Nadu. A police team headed to Tamil Nadu and found that the gang had sold the tomatoes for Rs 2.5 lakh and then drove the truck back to Bengaluru and left it at a deserted spot in Devanahalli. It has since been recovered by the police.

While the couple is arrested and the SUV used to waylay the truck seized, the remaining three suspects remain at large.

MAN HELD FOR KILLING SERVICE APARTMENT CASHIER

Bengaluru: A housekeeping staff has been arrested for killing the cashier of a service apartment on Old Airport Road. The deceased, Subash, was a native of West Bengal. "Subash was on night shift. Around 4.15 am on July 20, the accused, Abhishek, walked into the apartment with a wooden plank and attacked him. Hearing the commotion, another staff called the owner, Naveen," police said. "Though Naveen, who resides in Cottonpet, checked CCTV footage, he couldn't get any live feed. Sensing something was amiss, he rushed to the apartment and found Subash dead in a pool of blood," they added. Later, when he accessed CCTV footage at the apartment, he found Abhishek had attacked Subhash. The exact reason is yet to be ascertained. However, the police suspect Subash getting close to Abhishek's wife could have triggered it. Jeevan Bheemanagar police are investigating.

Bengaluru City Police Commissioner B Dayananda and other senior officers take part in a public contact programme for South Division in Hanumanthnagar on Saturday. The top cop interacted with residents and honoured several Good Samaritans. Dayananda lauded the participation of officials of other government departments in the programme.

2 held digging septic tank pit on footpath

MOHAMMAD YACOOB @Bengaluru

DAYS after a building being built inside a BBMP lake caught the attention of citizens and activists, a huge pit for a septic tank was dug on the footpath of Vajarahalli 80 Feet Road.

Officials from BDA and BBMP pressed upon Talaghatapura police to act upon the gross violation after a video went viral. On Saturday, Hoysala police patrolling vehicles and traffic police arrived at the spot and stopped the work. Site engineer Sudhir Bhat and mason Keerthi Raj were detained. A case under IPC Section 283 (causing traffic obstruction) was also registered.

"Based on the video on Twitter about footpath encroachment, senior officials from BDA alerted the station. We brought two people to the station and directed the workers to close the pit," said Venkatesh Naik, Assistant Sub-Inspector, Talaghattapura Traffic Police Station.

Another police official said Revanna Gowda, who is the owner of the building that is being built as a commercial complex, has been summoned to the police station. Gowda told the police that he was out of town and would visit the police station soon.

Sudhir Bhat said he was not aware of the procedure of taking permission from officials for such a project."The area has no sanitary connection and most houses and complexes let their sewage into septic tanks and we too were making one. Revanna Gowda was also aware of it," he said. Abdul Aleem from Change Makers of Kanakapura Road, who arrived at the spot, said, "We used social media and called the officials to put pressure to stop this nonsense. The IPC Sections applied are too weak. We have asked BDA to file a complaint."

Lower Ambalipura Lake sees most fish kills this yr

MOHAMMED YACOOB @Bengaluru

THE Lower Ambalipura Lake in Mahadevapur Zone has reported highest number of fish kills this year, owing to suspected water pollution. According to K Narayan, the fish contractor, over 20,000 fish have died over the last six days alone.

"This is the fourth term I had invested in the BBMP lake for fishing, and this is the first time I have suffered a huge loss. I had invested Rs 3.60 lakh and will not get a single rupee, since almost all the fish have died. The authorities need to ensure that the pollution of the lake is addressed," said Narayan, adding that had the authorities ensured proper checks of water quality and storm water drains, damage could have been less.

The lake was rejuvenated by the BBMP a decade ago, and locals have been maintaining the water body. According to them, this is the first time that an incident of such scale has been reported at Lower Ambalipura Lake. "The over 7-acre lake is surrounded by five big apartment complexes and not even once the raw sewage was discharged, as all have sewage treatment plants. The storm water drain, however, sees sewage inflow during the night. In the upper stream, Upper Ambalipura lake reportedly gets sewage and this also could be a reason. The BBMP has been informed. The lake protection group has taken water samples, which are being tested. The results are awaited," lake activist Kavitha Kishore said.

Some locals opine that from the last two years, rapid commercial activities have taken place, with hotels and shops mushrooming around the area. It is unclear where these establishments are letting out their sewage. "Maybe the hotel and shop owners are letting sewage into the drain at night, which may have caused pollution," said an activist.

Meanwhile, BBMP Lake Division Chief Engineer Vijayakumar Haridas said he was not aware of the incident. "Our officials said that last month, they investigated sewage entry into the lake, which was curtailed. However, we have asked the contractor to use detoxifying spray," said Haridas.

HOMI BHABHA CENTRE FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION
TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH
National Olympiad Programme 2023-2024
in Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Junior Science and Mathematics

All students wishing to participate in the programme must appear in corresponding **National Standard Examinations (NSEs)** (for science subjects) on **November 25 and 26, 2023** and in **Indian Olympiad Qualifier in Mathematics (IOQM)** (for Mathematics) on **September 3, 2023.**

Qualification in NSE/IOQM is the first step towards participation in the corresponding **International Olympiads of 2024.**

Online enrollment for students:
IOQM: https://www.mtai.org.in **(July 10 - Aug 3, 2023)**
NSEs: https://www.iapt.org.in **(Aug 21 - Sep 14, 2023)**

For more details: https://olympiads.hbcse.tifr.res.in
https://www.iapt.org.in https://www.mtai.org.in
CBC 48143/12/0001/2324

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India
CANTONMENT BRANCH
No.21, Ulsoor Road,
Opp: Telephone Exchange, Bengaluru-560042
Phone: : 080-22959649/22959650/22959651
Email: bm0099@andhrabank.co.in
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
E-Auction Sale Notice for 15 days Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provison to rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic Possession which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India (secured Creditor) will be sold on **" As is where is", " As is what is " and " whatever there is"** on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder:
Name and address of the Secured Creditor : Union Bank of India, Cantonment Branch, No.21, Ulsoor Road, Opp: Telephone Exchange, Bengaluru-560042.
Name and address of the Borrower, Co-Applicant and Guarantor: 1) K Marigowda, (Proprietor M/s Panchlinga Dish Network), H No.111, 3rd Main Road, Pramod Layout, RR Nagar, Pantarapalya, Bangalore-560030. **2) Vanajakshi,** H No.111, 3rd Main Road, Pramod Layout, RR Nagar, Pantarapalya Bangalore-560030.
Amount due: Rs.1,57,49,527 (Rupees One Crore Fifty Seven Lakhs Forty Nine Thousand Five Hundred and Twenty Seven Only) thousand two +future interest+ legal expences
Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold: All that piece and parcel of Residential land and building belonging to Marigowda K (Owner of the Property), situated at Property Bearing Site No 23, 9th Cross, 4th Cross Road, BSM extension, Kengari satellite town, Kengeri Town Municipality, Katha No 3852, Survey No 200/5, Bangalore-560060. (Property description as specified in the Sale Deed), On the North : 25 ft Road, On the South : KPHB Property. On the East : Property No.22, On the West : Property No.24.
Date and time of E-Auction: 10.08.2023 from 11.00 AM to 4.00 P.M.
(with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)
E-auction website-www.mstcecommerce.com
Last date for submission of EMD: On or before the commencement of e-Auction. Reserve price: Rs.1,41,75,000/- (Rupees One Crore Forty One Lakhs Seventy Five Thousand Only).
Earnest Money to be Deposited: Rs.14,17,500/- (Fourteen Lakhs Seventeen Thousand and Five hundred Only)
For Detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in
(1) https://www.ibapi.in (2) www.unionbankofindia.co.in
The intending purchaser require to register through :
https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp
The online E-auction will be held through website: **https://www.mstcecommerce.com**
For auction related queries e-mail to sarfaesi@unionbankofindia.com or contact Mr Om Prakash, Chief Manager, Ulsoor Road Branch, Bangalore. Contact No 8944931170 email id: ubin0800996@unionbankofindia.bank
Place: Bengaluru **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Date: 22.07.2023 **Union Bank of India.**

TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Contact Add: 11th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai – 400013, Contact No. (022) 61827414, (022) 61827375
POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)
(As per Rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the TATA Capital Housing Finance Limited., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated as below calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of the said notice. The borrower, having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, in particular and the public, in general, that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules. The borrower, in particular, and the public in general, are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the TATA Capital Housing Finance Limited, for an amount referred to below along with interest thereon and penal interest, charges, costs etc. from date of demand notice. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Loan Account No.	Name of Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/ Legal Representative(s):	Amount & Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession
TCHHF04930001 00089067	Mr. S Surendra Kumar (Borrower) and Mrs. Anjali Devi, as (Co Borrower)	As on 25.04.2023 Rs.3801208/- (Rupees Thirty Eight Lakh One Thousand Two Hundred Eight Only),	19th July, 2023

Schedule of the Property: All that the piece and parcel the residential immovable property bearing site No.1, Property No.72/3, measuring East to West on Southern side : 25 feet, and on the Norther Side 31.7 feet and North to South on Eastern Side : 26.4 feet and on Western Side 25.6 feet in all measuring 737 Square feet, situated at Maragondanahalli Village, Bidarahali Village, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore including all rights, privileges and appurtenances thereto and site is bounded as follows : East By : Private Property, West By : Site No.1 A, North By : Road, South By : Private Property.
Date: 19th July 2023, Place: Bangalore Sd/- Authorized Officer, Tata Capital Housing Finance Ltd.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The general public are hereby informed that my client has entered into an agreement for purchase of the Immovable Property described in the Schedule hereunder from the owners **SRI. K.A. RAJENDRA,** aged about 56 years, Son of Late Sri. KoodandaMadappaAiyamma, residing at No.132, Mathoshree, 4th Main, 4th Cross, Gauravnagar, J.P. Nagar, 7th Phase, Bangalore-560078 (Item No.1 & 2 of the Schedule Property). **SRI. A.R. RAJESH,** aged about 42 years, Son of Sri. A.S. Raviraj, residing at No.11, Raksha, 1st Cross, Vinayakanagar, SOS Childrens Village & Post, Kammanahalli, OppBannerughatta Road, Bangalore-560077 (Item No.3 of the Schedule Property). **SRI. M.M. VENKATESH KUMAR,** aged about 53 years, Son of Sri. L. Mohan Reddy, residing at No.34/1, 1st B Main Road, 1st Cross, 7th Block, Jayanagar West, Bangalore-560082 (Item No.4 of the Schedule Property) **&SRI. A.S. RAVIRAJ,** Son of Late Sri. A.C. Subbammaiah, aged about 78 years, residing at No.777, 23rd A Cross, 8th B Main, HSR Layout, 7th Sector, Bangalore (Item No.5 of the Schedule Property). Any person/s having any claim/rights/interest in the said property or any objections for said sale of the property, may file their objections in writing, along with supporting documents, addressed to the undersigned **within 7 days** from the date of publication of this Notice, failing which, it shall be construed that there are no claims of any sort over the said property and my client/s shall be advised to proceed with the purchase.
SCHEDULE

Sl No.	Owner's Name	Survey Nos.	Extent	Boundaries
Item No.1	K.A. RAJENDRA	Sy.No.297/6 (Old 297/1)	1-00.00 Acre	**East by:** Remaining Portion of Land bearing Sy.No.297/1, **West by:** Remaining Portion of Land bearing Sy.No.297/1, **North by:** Remaining Portion of Land bearing Sy.No.297/1, **South by:** Land bearing Sy.No.298 belongs to Sri. Chikkanna
Item No.2	K.A. RAJENDRA	Re.Sy.No.297/5 (Old 297/1)	0.24.08 Guntas	**East by:** Remaining Portion of Land bearing Sy.No.297/1, **West by:** Remaining Portion of Land bearing Sy.No.297/1, **North by:** Remaining Portion of Land bearing Sy.No.297/1, **South by:** Land bearing Sy.No.298 belongs to Sri. Chikkanna
Item No.3	A.R. Rajesh	Re.Sy.No.297/7 (Old 297/1)	1.00.00 Acre	**East by:** Land bearing Sy.No.300 belongs to Smt. Gowramma, **West by:** Remaining Portion of Land bearing Sy.No.297/1, **North by:** Remaining Portion of Land bearing Sy.No.297/1, **South by:** Land bearing Sy.No.298 belongs to Sri. Chikkanna
Item No.4	M.M. VENKATESH KUMAR,	Re.Sy.No.297/4 (Old 297/1)	0.24.08 Guntas	**East by:** L Remaining Portion of Land bearing Sy.No.297/1, **West by:**Property in Sy.No.296/1, **North by:** Land bearing Sy.No.296/2 belongs to Sri Jayaramaiah& Remaining Portion of Land bearing Sy.No.297/1, **South by:** Land bearing Sy.No.298 belongs to Chikkanna &Sy.No.294 belongs Sri. Mahadevaiah.
Item No.5	A.S. RAVIRAJ	Re.Sy.No.296/1	1.00.00 Guntas	**East by:** Land bearing Sy.No.297/1 belongs to Sri. M.M. Venkatesh Kumar, **West by:** Land bearing Sy.No.296/2 belongs to Sri. Jayaramaiah, **North by:** Land bearing Sy.No. 296/2 belongs to Sri Jayaramaiah, **South by:** Land bearing Sy.No.294 belongs to Sri. Mahadevaiah.

All said lands situated at **SUGGANAHALLI VILLAGE, KASABA HOBLI, RAMANAGAR TALUK, RAMANAGAR DISTRICT.**
Mr. K.B. Thippe Swamy, Advocate,
#LS-25, 1st Floor, SSB Muttada Complex, Tank Bund Road, Bangalore-560009.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(BELLARY THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919
No: KPCL/2022-23/PS/WORK_INDENT 304 Dated: 18.07.2023
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two cover system) (Through e-procurement portal only)
Sealed bids in two cover are invited through e-Portal mode for the work of **"Providing and Installation/Replacement of 3 nos of Water Ring Vaccum Pumps (Model/Size: 140, Capacity: 2800m3/hr) for U#1 of Ash Handling System (1x500 MW). EMD: Rs.1,02,700/-.** Last date and time for submission of bids: 31.07.2023 @ 16:00 Hrs. Tender documents may be downloaded and submitted from GoK e-Procurement **Website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be had from the **Executive Engineer (AHP)-1, BTPS/KPCL,** Kudithini, Bellary - 583152. Mobile: 9448290768.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -I, BENGALURU
BSNL Building 4th Floor, Telephone House Rajbhavan Road Bangalore - 560001
NOTICE FOR SETTLING A SALE PROCLAMATION
(Under Rule 53 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act,1961)
RC No : 1309/2019 (Out of OA no. 372/2019)
To: Between: Canara Bank , ARM Branch II **...Applicant/Certificte Holder**
And
M/s Kalpatru & others ...Defendants/Certificate Debtors
To:
1. **M/s Kalpatru,** No.138, 2nd Floor, Jaya Building, Mamulpet, Bengaluru - 560053. Represented by its Partners Mr. Madanlal M Lalan and Mr. Uttamchand Jain .
2. **Mr. Madanlal M Lalan,** S/o Sri Mayachand, Partner: M/s Kalpatru, R/at: No. 15, "Mohan Khedha Apartment" Binny Mill Road, Bengaluru 560040
3. **Mr. Uttamchand Jain, S/o Mr. Molchand, Partner :** M/s. Kalpatru R/at: No. 43/1, 2nd Floor S.M. Lane, Cotton Cross, Akkipet, Bengaluru- 560053.

...Certificate Debtors.
Whereas in excecution of Certificate No. **1309/2019 dated 27/12/2019** drawn up by the Presiding Officer,Debts Recovery Tribunal -1, Bangalore, the undersigned has ordered the sale of the under mentioned immovable property. You are hereby informed that the day on or after fifteenth day from the date of service of this notice has been fixed for drawing up the proclamation of sale and settling the terms thereof. You are requested to bring to the notice of the undersigned any encumbrances, charges, claims or Liabilities attaching to the said properties or any portion thereof.
SPECIFICATION OF PROPERTY
ITEM No.1: All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing no.48 (earlier bearing no.199 also T 139, then no.243 and later no.299) situated at old Tharagupet, Bengaluru, within the limits of BBMP ward No. 30, measuring East to West 23 Feet and North to south 74 Feet, in all measuring 1,702 Sq.ft. bounded on the East by: Property of Sri G.K. Puttaswamaiah; West by: Property of Dada and Company; North by: Old Tharagupet, South by: Old Patnaoolpet Road
ITEM No.2: All that piece and parcel of Residential property bearing Municipal no.29, PID No. 29-17-29, situtated at Ganigaravillanalane (N.P. Lane), Cottonpet (Aralepet), Bengaluru,within the limits of BBMP Ward no.29, measuring East to West 38 feet 4 inches and North to South: 35 feet 6 inches with adjacent property towards the Eastern side measuring East to West 9 feet 9 inches and North to South : 24 feet in all measuring 1594.83 Sq.ft. bounded on the East by: Property of Mavinamarada Appanna; West by: Property of Contractor Rangadasappa and Kamakka; North by: Property of Ilandamma, Maraagasamma and Manikyamudalair South by: Gongira Pillanna Lan
ITEM No.3: All that piece and parcel of Residential Unit bearing no.4, Municipal no.29/8, PID No. 29-17-29/8, on the 4th floor of the building "Kalpatru Classic", measuring about 1206.33 Sq.ft. of super built up are with one covered car parking space in the stilt area together with 266.59 sq.ft. undivided share of right, title interest of Land comprised in Item no.1 Property East by: Property of Mavinamarada Appanna; West by: Property of Contractor Rangadasappa and Kamakka; North by: Property of Ilandamma, Maraagasamma and Manikyamudalair South by: Gongira Pillanna Lane.
ITEM No.4: All that piece and parcel of Non - Residential Unit bearing Internal No. FT - 3, on the 4th floor of the building "Pooja Avenue" bearing BBMP no.48/33, PID no. 30-2-48/33, measuring about 612.63 Sq.ft. together with 127.63 Sq.ft. undivided share of right title interest of Land compised in Item no.3, East by: Property of Sri G.K. Puttaswamaiah; West by: Property of Dada and Company; North by: Old Tharagupet South by: Old Patnaoolpet Road
ITEM No.5: All that piece and parcel of Non - Residential Unit bearing Internal No. FT - 4, on the 4th floor of the building "Pooja Avenue" bearing BBMP no.48/34, PID no. 30-2-48/33, measuring about 29.58 Sq.ft. together with 6.16 Sq.ft. undivided share of right title interest of Land compised in Item no.1 East by: Common Passage of Pooja Avenue Complex; West by: Staircase area of Pooja Avenue Complex; North by: Staircase area of Pooja Avenue Complex; South by: Staircase area of Pooja Avenue Complex;
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal at Bangalore, on **the 11.02.2021** **Sd/-**
Recovery Officer-I
Debts Recovery Tribunal-I, Bengaluru

KARNATAK UNIVERSITY, DHARWAD
P. G. Dept. of Studies in Biotechnology & Microbiology, Pavate Nagar, Dharwad-580 003. Karnataka
No.: KUD/BT.MB/VGST-CISEE/Tender/2023-24/34 Date: 20-07-2023
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement System only)
Tenders are invited from reputed Manufacturing Companies/ Authorized dealers for the supply of Scientific Equipments to Principal Investigator, (VGST Project), Dept. of Biotechnology, Karnatak University, Dharwad, for the year 2023-24. Last date for submission of online tender form is **22/08/2023**. For more details visit **www.kud.ac.in** and download the information from website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** **Sd/-**
REGISTRAR

RAIL COACH FACTORY KAPURTHALA
On-line Tenders are invited by PCMM, RCF on behalf of President of India for following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No. & Due Date	Description	Quantity	EMD (Rs.)
1.	12231250 18.08.2023	GUIDE RAIL PROFILE, L=1765 MM	5971 Nos.	64,540/-
2.	17231245 21.08.2023	LAVATORY PAN ORIENT TYPE FOR LHB COACHES	3576 Nos.	3,36,560/-
3.	12231261 16.08.2023	SUPPORT BRACKET	45321Nos.	51350/-
		SUPPORT BRACKET COMPLETE	10797 Nos.	
		SUPPORTING BRACKET	4342 Nos.	
4.	12231259 18.08.2023	BRACKET COMPLETE FOR MOUNTING OF RMPU	7748 Nos.	58480/-
5.	12231257 14.08.2023	TAIL LAMP BRACKET (STAINLESS STEEL)	6143 Nos.	59790/-
6.	12231258 16.08.2023	SPEAKER BRACKET FOR AC 3 TIER (EOG) LHB VARIANT COACHES, .	7457 Nos.	72150/-
7.	17231289 17.08.2023	Luggage Rack Mounting for LHB SLR Coach	106 Sets.	2,55,430/-
8.	17231283 17.08.2023	INTERIOR STICKERS WITH BRAILLE SCRIPT FOR LHB SCN COACHES	156 Sets.	72,080/-
9.	17231057A 18.08.2023	AIR INLET DUCT FOR LHB AC3T	86 Nos.	2,79,280/-
10.	12231124 16.08.2023	Foldable Bottle Holder (One set to be Packed in one Box)	25761 Nos.	58,670/-
11.	17231300 17.08.2023	AIR GRILL TOILET/SWITCH BOARD COMPLETE	3195 Nos.	69,750/-
12.	14231122 16.08.2023	PU PAINTS FOR LHB COACHES	188 Set.	246580/-
13.	14231130 16.08.2023	CURTAIN CLOTH , FIRE RETARDANT.	62872 Mtr.	439660/-
14.	14231131 16.08.2023	PRE-LAMINATED SHADED COMPREG 12X1220X2440MM.	2882 Nos.	216360/-
15.	14231134 16.08.2023	SHEET PLYWOOD 12X1220X2440.	3084 Nos.	98980/-
16.	12231182 14.08.2023	SWIVEL COAT HOOK (THREE PEGS)	24132 Nos.	52,370/-

CORRIGENDUM
The following amendment is authorized against undernoted tenders:- **1. Tender No:** 12231151A; **Description:** Water Tank Assembly L.H. (390 LITRES); **Qty.** to be read as 553 Nos. instead of 322 Nos; **Description:** Water Tank Assembly R.H. (390 LITRES); **Qty.** to be read as 522 Nos. instead of 291 Nos; **EMD** to be read as Rs.8,36,920/- instead of Rs. 5,45,440/-; **2. Tender No:** 12231193; **Description:** For procurement of Supply Water Tank (30 LT) Mounting. **Qty.** to be read as 4177 Nos. instead of 4016 Nos; **EMD** to be read as Rs. 8,84,440/- instead of Rs. 8,50,340/-; **3. Tender No:** 12231209; **Description:** ALUMINIUM PROFILE L=5000 MM. **Qty.** to be read as 10,678 Kg. instead of 10453 Kg; **EMD** to be read as Rs. 71,510/- instead of Rs. 70,000/-; **4. Tender No:** 12231226; **Description:** Three type of Aluminum Extrusions. **EMD.** to be read as Rs. 9,67,430/- instead of 9,39,660/- ; **Description:** ALUMINIUM EXTRUSION FOR DUCTIING SUPPORT, L=2150 MM; **Qty** to be read as 10292.00 Kg instead of 7262.00 Kg; **Description:** AL EXTRUSION L=3800MM. **Qty** to be read as 20737.00 Kg instead of 19582.00 Kg; **5. Tender No:** 05231164; **Description:** End Wall Assembly; **Due Date:** to be read as 25.07.2023 instead of 20.07.2023; **6. Tender No:** 04231074; **Description:** AUSTENITIC STEEL SHEET/COIL OF VARIOUS SIZES **Qty .** to be read as 21,82,487 Kgs. instead of 13,51,475 Kgs.
1.For details and making On-line Tender, visit Website **http://ireps.gov.in.** Drawings/specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF Website **http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in** Class IIIb digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at **http://www.cce.gov.in 2.** Tenders will close at 14.25 HRS. on due date and tender will be opened at 14.30 HRS. S.No. 1 to 16 Tender will opened at RCF Kapurthala; **3.** For querries, contact IREPS Helpdesk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF helpdesk at 011-23378658. **PCMM**
T. NO. G-RCF/122/Stores/58/2023-24 **Dated: 22.07.2023**

Former minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan said the people are disappointed with the anti-people policies of the Congress government. Addressing a party protest against the state government, the BJP leader said the law and order situation has deteriorated and there is an atmosphere of fear in the state. The government must act tough against anti-national elements and terrorists, he said. Narayan also slammed the government for deputing IAS officers to receive political party leaders attending the Opposition leaders' meeting in Bengaluru recently

'WITH KAVERI 2, SUB-REGISTRAR OFFICES HAVE UNDERGONE SEA CHANGE'

EXPRESS Dialogues

THE Stamps and Registration Department in Karnataka plays a crucial role in almost everyone's life as it oversees the biggest investment made by us, our properties. The department's Inspector General **Mamatha BR** spoke to *The New Sunday Express* on a range of issues, right from the revision of the guidance value set to come into force from October 1, steps taken to effect transparency in the 256 Sub Registrar offices through Kaveri 1 and 2 to citizen-friendly amenities put in place in these modernised offices. Here are excerpts:

What are the steps taken by the Stamps and Registrations Department to make property registrations easier for the public? Let us start with Kaveri...
Kaveri is a registration software introduced in 2003. It was the first time ever that the Stamps and Registrations Department was computerised. The department is ancient and dates back to 1856. We have documents in Farsi, Modi Lipi and Marathi, and all of them handwritten. In fact, they were all much better than what we have today, all beautifully written and legible. In Gulbarga (Kalaburagi), they had even drawn a sketch of the property and the locality. Any written document has its life and it can be tampered with. Also, it is a cumbersome process and you need writers to keep writing it. After 2003, the thumb impression and picture were taken and the registration was done on a computerised system. It made life a lot easier for the department.

It was the first such initiative in the country. How did that come about?
Today, we are the third highest revenue earning department for the government. It plays the role of a facilitator between the buyer and the seller and we charge a stamp duty for it. There are 256 sub-registrar offices in the state with 43 in Bengaluru. We are the first in the country to have computerised land records and transactions (registrations). This came about by effecting improvements on a regular basis. Integration with Bhoomi (database for land records) happened between 2003 and 2010. After the stamp paper scandal, we went in for e-stamping. Between 2011 and 2015, we went in for Anywhere Registration whereby registration can be done in any of the offices within one district. We also need to know the extent of the property, so we insisted on a revenue sketch and there is an integration with Mojini also. RDPR came up with e-Swathu which gives kathas in panchayat limits and we integrated that too. Between 2016 and 2020, we integrated the system with Sakala (Time-bound Guarantee of Services Act). After that we went in for online registration and then we integrated with the treasury so that people could pay the challan directly. Then we went in for Kaveri Online Services which offered various services, including Encumbrance Certificate (EC). Then we went in for e-Saala, the e-sign and digilockers; we also integrated with BBMP's e-Aasthi, then we went in for blockchain, later we had the Moulya app (for property valuation) and then the e-office.

People have many grievances with the registration process. How are you redressing them?
There were lots of issues with registration. A major grouse was the condition of the sub-registrar offices as they lacked basic facilities. Elderly had to climb stairs, there was no drinking water or toilets and people had to sit for a whole day to give a thumb impression. Then, there was the ₹Server Down' issue across offices. Kaveri 2 was visualised between 2012 and 2014 to redress all the issues of Kaveri 1 and make it a better and transparent system and more citizen-friendly. There is a certain panic when one has to visit registration offices as you have put in your life's savings in your property. The sub-registrar office is like a mystery and not understood completely. Through Kaveri 2, we are breaking that myth completely as it provides safety features too.

How exactly do people benefit from Kaveri 2?
In Kaveri 2, we have a citizen module. The moment you enter your property ID, it will tell you whether it has any encumbrance on it or any loan or any government liability. It will also tell you whether the schedule given in the sale deed is correct and whether details the owner cited are genuine. This prevents any fraudulent transactions and makes the purchase safe. It is a faceless, contact-less procedure. Documents are sent online to the sub-registrar who scrutinises everything. The beauty of this new system is that as you enter the details, your property valuation is displayed. It will let you know the exact Stamp Duty you have to pay. So much of back and forth done earlier during property registration is avoided now. You just have to use your net banking facility and make payments. You are allotted time and one just needs to be 10 minutes earlier at the sub-registrar's office. Ninety per cent of your registration process is already completed by you before you arrive. Thumb impression and pictures are taken and you can walk out with your documents. You can even tell them to post it to your Digilocker.

How much of the registration time comes down for the public? Also, throw some light on your revenue collection.
We have already collected revenue of Rs 4, 770 crore in the last three months. Earlier, we used to do 40 registrations a day. Now, we can do 170, 190 and even up to 200 per day in one office. The registration process takes only 15 minutes in case there is only one owner of the property. If there are multiple owners, it takes a little more time.

There is an impression among the public that there is a lot of corruption in sub-registrar offices? Are you doing anything to dispel that?
We have highly educated and well-qualified officers. There are black sheep everywhere. Kaveri 2 gives a lot of power to citizens. Until 98 per cent of the registration work is over, there is no contact between the sub-registrar and you. There is no cash transaction anywhere in the sub-registrar office. Everything can be kept track of as there is only one single server in Kaveri 2 for the entire state as compared to Kaveri 1 which had a server in every office. It gives us a lot of control. Earlier, each sub-registrar office was like an island with its own bosses and fiefdom. Now, with all the connectivity, we can see which machine has been switched on or off, we can see who is working and what time they logged in too. The sub-registrar can no longer use a substitute in his place and step out. Every sub-registrar needs to sign the documents digitally and every document goes to him four/five times and it has to be signed each time. Data entry operators were ruling the sub-registrar office. But now you are doing all the data entry. Their job is only to take your thumb impression, signature and your photo. The only place we require his help is that from 1856 to 2004 the documents are not online and physically written. If someone needs one of those documents like an encumbrance certificate, he has to physically search and upload it. The registration office is now a sanitised area and there are deed writers, licensed by the department, who have set up separate offices. Hangers on coming and disturbing our work does not happen anymore. I would also like to add that now not just the attitude of sub-registrars, but even the look and feel of the offices has changed completely. They have become more like passport offices. There are waiting rooms with a display board detailing our schemes. There are good toilets. Even offices in smaller places, like Sankeshwar, Nippani, Sringeri or even Mulabagal have changed for the better. Every sub-registrar office rolled out Kaveri like a festival with rangolis drawn and pujas performed with lunch hosted too. Some of the offices even have a VIP registration room for someone in a hurry.

Do you have a staff shortage like in many other state government departments? Is it affecting services rendered?
There is a shortage in all cadres and we will address it shortly. In some cadres, there is almost a 50 per cent vacancy, like in the higher levels (Group A). But in Groups B and C, it is 25 per cent. We have enough data entry operators and sub-registrars to carry out the actual registration. The department is carrying out some rationalisation to check our requirements. Our system has become technology driven and we prefer our new recruits to have computer knowledge as an additional qualification.

In the budget, the CM spoke about revising the guidance value on properties. When is it likely to start? Has there been a sudden rise in registrations to avoid the hike stamp fee.
Aashada month is going on and after that Adhika masa will be on. I would say that October 1 will be the date that the new guidance value will come into force. It is anybody's guess what will happen between now and October 1.

Do you have in place a public grievance system?
We already have a call centre (080-68265316) for the public and we receive varied calls. We are in the process of change and there will be complaints. We have a help desk for our own staff to help them in case of any problems during registration.

What is your revenue target for this year and how much has been achieved?
Rs 25,000 crore is my target. Last year, it was Rs 15,000 crore. But we are also increasing our guidance value from October 1 plus we are also looking at something else. There is a lot of non-registrable stamp duty that is not being paid and we will be educating people on that. For example, you take a house on rent and there is an 11-month agreement between the two of you but you do not pay the relevant stamp duty. Many of them, including owners, do not realise that an agreement with a stamp duty is a safety net. If the tenant becomes a squatter, that is the only way to send him out. If you do not have this and approach the court, you will be in a fix. There are many such agreements, the employment contract, the trade licence etc. We made Rs 2,500 crore from the non-registerables last year. This year, I am looking at Rs 5,000 crore at least. Our present target is achievable. Our target for 2022-2023 was Rs 15,000 crore, but we collected Rs 17,873 crore, a 25.47 per cent increase. During 2021-2022, we overshot our target by 33%. This year will be an exponential jump.

I.N.D.I.A meet kicks off storm: Road to Delhi full of challenges

THE Bengaluru conclave of the opposition bloc which has now been christened the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance or I.N.D.I.A has kicked off a political storm.

The extent of its influence on national politics will become clearer as we get closer to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. But the Siddaramaiah government's action of deputing senior IAS officers to receive political leaders attending the conclave led to a furore in the assembly, resulting in the suspension of 10 BJP MLAs and disruption of the proceedings. The opposition boycotted the proceedings in the last two days of the session that ended on Friday.

The manner in which parties handled the recent developments shows that the animosity between the ruling and opposition parties is growing. They are unwilling to put politics behind even after the May 10 assembly polls and have already started preparations for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

The session that should have witnessed a healthy debate on the issues concerning people was the victim of that politics and growing animosity. The government should have been more magnanimous in taking the opposition into confidence and not allowing the situation to escalate. Passing the Bills without adequate debate and when the House was not in order is not a good practice. It is the responsibility of those in power to take the opposition into confidence and not the other way around.

On their part, the opposition could have played a more constructive role by appointing a Leader of the Opposition and forcing the government to discuss pertinent issues. When both sides were more focused on their politics, they might have managed to prove their political point, but it was the voice of the people that got drowned in the political din.

While it is too naive to expect parties to keep politics aside, they, especially those in power, should not lose sight of their larger responsibilities. The politicisation of bureaucracy is not a good move as independent of political parties that are at the helm of affairs, it is the officers who keep the wheels of administration moving to take the government and the governance to people, despite many shortcomings and criticisms over the way it works.

At some point, the senior bureaucracy should have put its foot down to draw a line between administration and politics. They can, and they should, politely yet firmly refuse to be part of political events and focus on administration. The government's response to the opposition's criticism on this specific issue was far from convincing. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah tried to draw a parallel between earlier instances when IAS officers were put on duty to receive politicians. Does one mistake justify another?

Challenges:
As things stand today, I.N.D.I.A can make some difference in the larger political scenario, only if the Grand Old Party is willing to make greater sacrifices and be more accommodative and not try to play the role of a big brother. That's easier said than done for the party that is hoping for revival at the national level after its stupendous show in Karnataka. Some Congress leaders described the conclave to be a "game-changer" in the political scenario.

The parties that are part of I.N.D.I.A may not find it difficult to work with each other as long as it is only a general discussion and their common agenda of Modi-bashing, but the real challenge will be in terms of agreeing on specific issues and seat sharing. Can Congress be more accommodating in Delhi, Punjab and Gujarat to keep AAP in the bloc? Or will AAP be more magnanimous? Can TMC and Left fight together in West Bengal? What is the scenario in Kerala?

In the South, the new bloc is unlikely to have much of an impact. As for Karnataka, Janata Dal (Secular) has stayed out of the grouping and seems to be gravitating towards NDA. That was made amply clear in the way in which JDS leaders have joined hands with BJP in fighting the Congress government, both within the assembly and outside of it.

The opposition bloc leaders, who have immense political experience at their command, seem to be working diligently to draft a strategy to stop Modi from coming to power for the third consecutive term. But, for now, it looks more like optics, than substance. Needless to mention that West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, who may be a formidable foe for BJP in her home state, may not make much of a difference in Congress' vote share in Karnataka or JDU's in Bihar or SP's UP. That's true with most other leaders in the bloc.

Each of them has to fight their own battles on their strengths in their states, like the way they did earlier. For now, I.ND.I.A appears more like a broad ideological canvas than a formidable force on the ground to take on the BJP. That would become clearer after their subsequent meetings and a specific plan of action.

Give 24-hr free power: AAP new chief to govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Karnataka unit's new president, Mukhyamantri Chandru, on Saturday said the Congress in the state has not copied the guarantees of the AAP, but has stolen them.

"Their colour will be revealed in six months," he said, after taking over as the new president of AAP Karnataka. The government should give 24-hour free electricity, appropriate support price, employment to the youth, good education, and health for the future of children, he said. "All of us who have voted for the corruption and mismanagement of the Congress and BJP that have ruled the country and the state so far have become usury children paying millions of crores of interest to borrowers. The nation's debt is Rs 175 lakh crore and the state's debt has reached Rs 5.5 lakh crore. Rs 35,000 crore has to be paid as interest. In this case, what else can we call ourselves?" he asked

AAP Karnataka unit president Mukhyamantri Chandru

Though the AAP government led by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the state of Delhi is providing free electricity, sustainable water, education, health, and transportation to citizens, it is still able to present a debt-free budget, he said.

The AAP leader said they are united in the grand alliance to save the Constitution and democracy. "Our goal is to wrest Karnataka from the hands of the corrupt. We are going to contest the upcoming district-taluk panchayat, BBMP and Lok Sabha elections in the state. Party workers and leaders should work day and night," he said.

Sonia entering Rajya Sabha from K'taka?

ENS @ Bengaluru

THERE is a buzz about CM Siddaramaiah having appealed former AICC president Sonia Gandhi to become a Rajya Sabha member from Karnataka as there is a likelihood of her not contesting the 2024 LS polls, given her bad health.

On April 2, 2024, the terms of three Congress RS members from Karnataka -- Syed Naseer Hussain, Dr L Hanumanthaiah and GC Chandrashekar -- will end, and Congress, which has 135 MLAs, can retain all the three seats.

It is crucial for Sonia to be an MP as she can retain the 10, Janpath residence, where she has been staying since 1989 when her husband late Rajiv Gandhi was the Leader of Opposition.

It is said that Congress is also planning to send AICC spokesperson Supriya Srinate and renominate Syed Naseer Hussain from Karnataka. AICC president Mallikarjuna Kharge too has suggested Sonia become an RS member from Karnataka, sources said. Siddaramaiah spoke to Sonia during her recent visit here to take part in the Opposition conclave, sources said. Since BJP is planning to ensure that none of the Nehru-Gandhi family members are in Parliament, Congress is planning safer routes for them, they added.

AICC General Secretary and Sonia's daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra may get nominated to RS from Himachal Pradesh, a senior leader said. It is crucial for the family as former Wayanad Lok Sabha member Rahul Gandhi has been disqualified following his conviction in a defamation case, they added.

JDS AT CROSSROADS AGAIN, HAS TOO MANY HURDLES AHEAD

K SHIVA KUMAR @Mysuru

WHILE the growing bonhomie between JDS and BJP has triggered speculation amid political circles ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, the regional party is once again at the crossroads in deciding its future in Karnataka politics.

After its rout in the Assembly elections, JDS is facing far too many challenges putting its leadership to test. The party is desperate to keep its flock together, retain its identity and emerge as an ideal opposition to improve its fortunes, besides bouncing back politically in the Lok Sabha elections.

JDS senior leader HD Kumaraswamy warming up to BJP may lead to turbulence within the party as many leaders and cadres are unhappy with the move. A section of party leaders and cadre still believes that the regional outfit must maintain an equidistance between Congress and BJP. Especially, party president CM Ibrahim, known to be vocal against BJP, appears miffed and has been maintaining a low profile since the development.

But a few others feel an alliance with BJP would benefit the party in the near future by winning a couple of Lok Sabha seats, but it could be harmful in the long run. Citing the Congress-JDS alliance in the previous Lok Sabha elections which failed to enthuse voters, a JDS leader said even JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda and Kumaraswamy's son Nikhil Kumaraswamy lost as the alliance did not peter down to workers of both parties and they did not work in tandem. Some leaders cite examples of BJP crushing regional parties, like Shiv Sena, NCP and LJP. The cadres need to be taken into confidence before arriving at any decision to avoid a 2019-like situation, said another source.

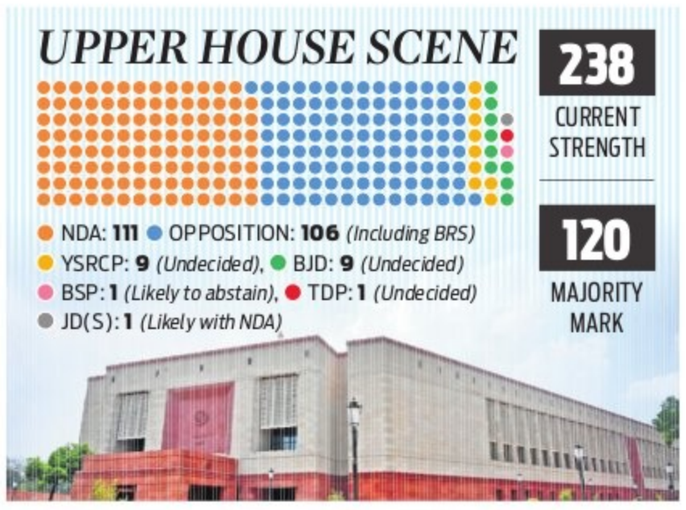
Former mayor Ravi said JDS will be an alternative force and claimed that Muslims who voted for Siddaramaiah's leadership will return to JDS once Siddaramaiah quits electoral politics.

Deve Gowda, meanwhile, ruled out any merger with BJP and called upon leaders to organise the party to bring all sections back into its fold. He also authorised senior MLA GT Devegowda and others to tour the state and start preparing for the Lok Sabha elections.

JDS leaders maintained that they are in an alliance with BJP only to corner the Congress government, and there have been no talks of any arrangement for the Lok Sabha polls despite BJP leaders sending several feelers. However, an alliance cannot be ruled out, depending on how BJP treats the party and its demands, they added.

GT Devegowda said the party has authorised Kumaraswamy to take a decision to win the Lok Sabha polls and revive the party. Party leaders will tour the state to revive the party by attracting youth and women, he added. On the BJP and JDS coming together, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said they are watching the developments in JDS. Both parties coming together will not make a difference as the government is focused on delivering on its promises and programmes, he added.

Justice Alok Aradhe, who has been appointed the sixth Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court, will be administered the oath of office at Raj Bhavan on Sunday by Governor Tamilisai Soundrararajan



BRS with AAP on Delhi ordinance, numbers tight

PREETHA NAIR @New Delhi

ENDING ambiguity over its stance on the controversial National Capital Territory Amendment Bill, the KCR-led Bharat Rashtra Samithi on Saturday said it will oppose if it comes up for voting in Parliament.

The BRS is not part of the Opposition alliance INDIA and has kept its cards close to its chest. Its position will come as a boost to the Opposition bloc, which is looking to garner support from all parties to defeat the BJP in Rajya Sabha in the numbers game. The BRS has seven members in the Rajya Sabha and nine in the Lok Sabha. The NCT Bill seeks to replace the Delhi ordinance to restore the Lt Governor's control over the transfer and postings of bureaucrats in the national Capital.

BRS Lok Sabha member G Ranjit Reddy said the party will extend support to AAP in opposing the Bill in both Houses.

"Even when Congress was dilly-dallying, KCR promised support to Kejriwal on the issue. KCR won't go back on his word," said Reddy. "You can't presume that since we haven't attended the opposition meeting, we wouldn't support AAP. KCR clearly said we will be equidistant from BJP and Congress," added Reddy.

The ordinance has become a prestige issue for both sides.

The Bill will sail smoothly through the Lok Sabha where the NDA has a clear majority. However, in the Rajya Sabha, the BJP will be walking a tightrope if YSR Congress, TDP and Biju Janata Dal decide to either abstain or go with the Opposition bloc. Reports on the BSP mulling to abstain from voting ought to worry the BJP.

The Rajya Sabha currently has 238 MPs and the BJP plus allies have 111, including nominated members. The Opposition has 106, excluding YSRCP, BJD, BSP, TDP and JD(S) who together have 21 members.

New industrial policy soon: Siddu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said Karnataka will come up with a new industrial policy to encourage exports. In the past, the state's industrial policy was well appreciated by the industry fraternity as it was known to be most progressive. The government will hold discussions with industrialists and exporters to bring out a new and progressive industrial policy, he added.

Speaking on the sidelines of an event to present the 'State Export Excellence Awards', organised by the Department of Commerce and Industry and the Visvesvaraya Trade Promotion Centre, Siddaramaiah said the awards are an effort to recognise the best achievements of exporters.

He said the government will focus on creating an industry-friendly and investment-friendly policy. Industrial development will help reduce unemployment by creating economic opportunities. The skill development department will be strengthened to ensure proper training to youth to make them more employable. This will also help improve the GDP and law and order situation in the state, he added.

Large and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil said the Export Preparedness Index by NITI Aayog for 2022 has ranked Karnataka number one in the country under the policy and business ecosystem parameters. NITI Aayog's ranking was announced on July 17. Siddaramaiah said the exporters, who have won awards, are an inspiration to others. "Karnataka has sustained its rank at No 3 in the country. Let's work together and bring the state to number one," CM said.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said, "We will encourage industrialisation in Tier 2 and 3 cities to make sure everything does not become Bengaluru-centric. The government is committed to providing all support to investors, including exporters."

ROAD TURNS RIVER

A man wades through a flooded street in Adilabad on Saturday | EXPRESS

Suspended RDPR officer gets plum posting in PWD

BENGALURU: Differences among the cabinet colleagues of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, with regard to the transfer of officers, slowly seem to be surfacing. To elaborate, an executive engineer who was suspended from duty by RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge, got a posting by PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi. S R Hareesh, an executive engineer with the engineering division of Tumakuru Zilla Panchayat, was suspended on charges of dereliction of duty, as he had allegedly delayed the calling of tenders of a project, causing Rs 2.78 crore in loss to the state exchequer a month ago. But on Friday, he got a better posting as an Executive Engineer in the PWD of Tumakuru replacing a woman officer, Hemalatha R. According to sources, since the posting from one department to the other had taken place, Priyank's consent was not required.

Milk price hike: HDK slams govt

ENS @Bengaluru

FORMER chief minister and JDS leader HD Kumaraswamy slammed the state government for the increase in milk prices.

"After increasing the price of alcohol, the Congress government has also increased the price of milk by Rs 3 per liter," he said. The Congressmen, who "had flowers in their ears, are placing flower pots on people's heads", he added. He was indirectly referring to the Congress' campaign "Kivimele hoova" (flower on the ear, which means someone has been fooled) against the BJP government.

He accused the government of mobilising resources for the Anna Bhagya scheme by increasing the prices of milk and alcohol. The government, which is unable to bring down the increased prices, is giving a new "price hike guarantee" to the people, he said.

Hariprasad too played a big role in Cong poll victory: Seer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ASHWATH Nayaran said issues concerning Edigas have not been addressed in the budget. Congress is doing vote bank politics by giving crores of rupees as grants to a single category. Congress leaders remember AHINDA when they are not in power. When they come to power, they ignore AHINDA, he added. The statement of the 68-year-old Congress loyalist, who never switched sides in his 49-year political career, has been taken seriously by members of the Ediga community, especially by its religious head Pranavanda Swamiji.

"Hariprasad too played a big role in Congress coming to power in the state. As Leader of Opposition (in the Council) he should have been a natural choice for the post of chief minister. If the high command fails to acknowledge it, the party will have to face the wrath of the community in the 2024 LS polls," he warned.

Speaking to TNSE from Kerala, he said that a mega convention of Edigas will be held in Bengaluru on September 10 and another big meet in Udupi in January 2024.

Meanwhile, Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan hit out at Hariprasad stating that "one upmanship" will not work in Congress. "People like me, Hariprasad, Bandi Siddegowda or Babanna can't take a decision on CM candidate. We have our party high command and leaders such as Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi who will take a call on such matters," he said. Home Minister G Parameshwara clarified that Siddaramaiah is capable of replying to Hariprasad's statement.

At the community's meeting, Hariprasad alleged that there has been a conspiracy to snub him in the party. He strongly criticised Siddaramaiah for not keeping his promise of granting Rs 5 crore to Koti Channayya Park at Karkala. "Politically, he never helped me. But I helped him," he said and added that he never felt let down for not being made a cabinet minister. Sources close to him said he wants to know from the high command as to why he is being sidelined.

Former Rajya Sabha member Hariprasad, who moved to state politics and became MLC, was Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council. But the party high command inducted NS Boseraju into the cabinet and made him MLC. He eventually became the party's floor leader in the Council.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-TENDER NOTICE
Tender No. 1) WRD/KWA-CE(SR)/TR/798/2022_5_1_1/1,
2) 1st Re Etender No. WRD/KWACE(SR)/TR/1488/2022_5_1_1/RC1/1
3)1st Re Etender No. WRD/KWA-CE(SR)/TR/1488/2022_26_4_3/RC 1/1

JJM-Kottayam DIstrict - 1) Manimala Construction of Sump cum booster station, 2LL OHSR , Providing distribution network and FHTCs 2) Vazhoor Construction of 2LL OHSR at WTP compound, Supply and Laying additional distribution lines and providing FHTCs 3)Construction of 4.5 LL OHSR, Supply and Laying additional distribution lines and providing FHTCs. EMD : Rs. 1,00,000/- Each; Tender fee : Rs. 8270+(1489)GST Each; Last Date for submitting Tender : 31-07-2023 03:00:pm. Phone : 0481 2562745
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
KWA-JB-GL-6-812-2023-24 Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Kottayam

TIRUPATI SMART CITY CORPORATION LIMITED,
C/o. Tirupati Municipal Corporation, 13-29-M9-1-00, Tilak Road, East Tirupati - 517501, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh, India. e-mail:tsccltirupati@gmail.com

Managing Director, Tirupati Smart City Corporation Limited, Tirupati invites Bids on e-Procurement platform from the **"eligible contractors"** for the following Works:
NIT Number: TSCCL/NIT/65, Dated: 22-07-2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

IFB No.	Name of the work	Estimated Value [In INR]
01 / 23 - 24 / Smart City / TO	Proposed Construction of connecting Bridge for phase-I and Phase-II at Vinayak Sagar with an length of 82mts under implementation of the smart City Mission in Tirupati.	Rs.68,00,000/-

Bidders are advised to visit e-procurement market place at https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in from 27-07-2023 to download the tender document and detailed instructions. For any assistance regarding participation in the e-tender contact, Superintending Engineer, e-mail : tsccltirupati@gmail.com. The duly completed documents have to submit Bids on online and that only be considered.

All other details including any extension, clarifications, amendments, corrigendum, addendum etc., will be uploaded on the above-mentioned website only and shall not be published in any other sources.

The TSCCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender offers in part or full without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/- Smt. D.HARITHA, I.A.S.,
Managing Director, Tirupati Smart City Corporation Limited, TIRUPATI

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients Sri Manjunath .C and Smt. Malathi .V are the absolute joint owners of the property, more fully described in the Schedule, having acquired under a Sale Deed dated 29/02/2020 registered in the Office of SRO, R. R. Nagar as No. RRN-1-09061-2019-20 and stored in CD No. RRND521 from Sri Y. Nagesh. At the time of the registration of the Sale Deed, Sri Y. Nagesh had handed over all the prior documents in original including Allotment Letter and Possession Certificate issued in favour of Smt. M. N. Vajrakumari and Transfer Possession Certificate in favour Sri Y. Nagesh issued by BDA. The said Allotment Letter and Possession Certificates which were issued in favour of Smt. M. N. Vajrakumari and Sri Y. Nagesh are irretrievably lost/misplaced by my clients.

My clients have lodged a E-Lost Article Report on 19/07/2023 with Karnataka State Police, Bangalore City with Lost Report No. 0649997/2023.

If anyone finds the above document, or if anyone is having this document in their custody, the same may be handed over to the undersigned within Seven days from the date of publication of this Public Notice. If any person or persons or financial institution or Bank has any claim over the schedule property or any person or persons claim any right, title or interest, over the schedule property, the same may be lodged with the undersigned within Seven days from today, along with relevant claim documents, failing which, it will be presumed that the schedule property is free from any such claim and any claim received thereafter will not bind my clients and would not be considered by my client and for future transactions, the documents will be treated as lost.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Property being a Vacant BDA Site bearing No. 409, BBMP Khatha Sl. No. 409/409/409, Ward No. 130, situated at Jnanabharathi (Valagerahalli), 1st Block, Bangalore admeasuring East to West: 9.14 Meters and North to South: 6.10 Meters totally measuring 55.75 square Meters, coming under the jurisdiction of BBMP and bounded on the

East by : Road
West by : Site No. 490
North by : Site No. 410
South by : Site No. 408

Aishwarya P Kumar, Advocate
A-34, V. K. Residency, Dr. Shivaram Karanth Road, Chikkallasandra, Bangalore – 61
Phone No. 9620301936
Bangalore Dated: 20/07/2023

STATE BANK OF INDIA
STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH(SARB), BANGALORE

Authorised Officer's Details:
Name: Mr.Krishnan Kant Rastogi
Chief Manager
MOB: +91 - 9480841423
E-mail ID: sbi.05173@sbi.co.in

3rd Floor, Building No. 11/90,
Near Old Shivaji Theatre JC Road,
Bangalore 560002
Landline No: 080 -25943663/3664
CCO: Mr.Prabhu Ram. J., Contact No: 9845305112

APPENDIX-IV-A
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Sale Notice of Sale of Immovable Property
(Excluding movable assets, if any, lying in the premises)

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Asset (Excluding movable assets, if any, lying in the premises)**under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India being the Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** basis on **09.08.2023** for recovery of **Rs.32,89,693/-** (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety Three Only) as on 02.08.2021 with future interest, costs expenses etc. due to the State Bank of India, Stressed Assets Recovery Branch (SARB) J.C Road, Bangalore from **Mr.Kannan Naidu G.** S/o Govindaswamy Naidu No. 55, 3rd Main, 11th Cross, Shreyas Colony, J P. Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore 560 078. **And Also at:**No.498, Harinagar Hamlet, Kothanur Village, Uttrahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk Bangalore- 560 062, **2. Guarantor Mrs.Suguna P.** W/o Ravi.K Residing at No.49/2, 5th Cross, 3rd Main, Srinidhi Layout,Konanakunte, Bangalore 560062.

Tender No. :SARB/PRJ/2023-24/924
Absolute Sale Deed No. JPN-1-08217-2014-15, Dated: 31.10.2014

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

A/c. No. HBL34310519432

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.498, in Katha No. 1202, New BBMP 'B' Katha Sl. No. 324, New Katha R.D.A. No. 42, Property No. 1202/498, Sy. No. 156, Situated at Harinagar Hamlet of Kothanur village, Uttrahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, now comes under the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Banagalore, measuring East to West, 40 Feet, and North to South 30 Feet, in all measuring 1200 Square Feet. and Bounded on the: East by: Puttappa's Property, West by: Road, North by: Muniyellamma's Property, South by: Kuri Muniyamma's Property.

Reserve Price	EMD to be deposited	Last date for receipt of EMD	Bid increment	Date and Time of E-auction
Rs.54,40,000/-	Rs.5,44,000/-	08.08.2023 upto 4.00 PM	Rs.2,72,000/-	09.08.2023 11.30 A.M. to 01.30 PM

The Authorised Officer shall have absolute discretion to cancel the e-auction at any point of time, without assigning any reason.
For detailed terms and conditions of the E-auction sale and for E-Auction tender document containing online e-auction Bid Form, Declaration etc, please refer to the link provided in (1)www.sbi.co.in, (2) www.mstcecommerce.com and (3) www.ibapi.in.

Sd/-Authorised Officer & Chief Manager,
State Bank of India,
Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, Bengaluru
Date: 19.07.2023
Place: Bengaluru

Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing, Kancheepuram
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YOUR GUIDE TO SPICY LIVING
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MISSING

Jisha

Sanroop

Alayana

(1) Jisha, age 33/23, D/o Vijayan, Poovottil HO, Koodathai Bazar PO, Thamarassery, Kozhikode Rural, Kerala, India, her son Sanroop, age 11 and her daughter Alayana, age 8 are missing since 25.06.2023.

IDENTIFICATION MARKS:
1. Jisha - height 160 cm, brownish dark, thin body.
2. Sanroop - height 150 cm, brownish dark, fat body.
3. Alayana - height 150 cm, brownish dark, fat body.

If any information about them, inform to the below phone numbers.
Kodenchery Police Station - **0495 2236236**
SHO Inspector Kodenchery - **9497947244**
Sub Inspector Kodenchery - **9487980780**

Ro/01737/f2/2023/I&PRD

RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION , PRAYAGRAJ
E-Tender Notice No.: ST235009A **Date: 20.07.2023**

E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Materials Manager, Central Organization Railway Electrification, Prayagraj, invites following E- TENDER (Two Stage Reverse Auction) :-

E-Tender No	Brief Description	Quantity	Tender Due Date
ST235009A	Procurement of PVC insulated underground, unscreened armoured signaling cable 12 Core x 1.5 sq. mm as per RDSO specification No IRS-S-63/2014 (Rev 4.0) including latest amendment.	233 Kms	21/08/2023

Note: 1. The complete information of above E- Tender (Two Stage Reverse Auction) and Tender document are available on **IREPS** website i.e. **http://www.ireps.gov.in. Only E-Bids shall be accepted against above Tender** The e-bids may be submitted before **11.00 hrs** on tender opening date.

PCMM
Central Organisation for Railway Electrification, Prayagraj
For & On behalf of the President of India
PR-124/2023
PAMM **"Serving Customers with a Smile"**

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Nelamangala, Bengaluru Karnataka

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Sd/-
Place: Bengaluru **Chief General Manager & Zonal Head**
Date: 23.07.2023 Retail Banking Group (Bengaluru Zone)

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-TENDER NOTICE
Tender No : 122/2023-24/SE/PHC/MVPA

JJM-EDAMALAKKUDY PANCHAYATH IN IDUKKI DISTRICT-DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF CLEAR WATER SUMP CUM PUMP HOUSE, 0.5 MLD WTP, PUMPING MAIN AND GLSR AT AMBALAPADI. EMD : Rs. 200000; Tender fee : Rs. 11025; Last Date for submitting Tender : 02-08-2023, 04:00:pm; Phone : 04852835637; Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-818-2023-24 PH Circle, Muvattupuzha

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -I, BENGALURU
BSNL Building 4th Floor, Telephone House Rajbhavan Road Bangalore - 560001

WARRANT OF ATTACHMENT OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
RC No : 1309/2019 (Out of OA no. 372/2019)

To: Sri Paritosh Kumar, Senior Manager, Canara Bank, ARM Branch-II, Bangalore - 1.
Between:Canara Bank , ARM Branch II **...Applicant/Certificte Holder**
And
M/s Kalpatru & others ...Defendants/Certificate Debtors
To:
1. M/s Kalpatru, No.138, 2nd Floor, Jaya Building, Mamulpet, Bengaluru - 560053. Represented by its Partners Mr. Madanlal M Lalan and Mr. Uttamchand Jain.
2. Mr. Madanlal M Lalan, S/o Sri Mayachand, Partner: M/s Kalpatru, R/at: No. 15, "Mohan Khedha Apartment" Binny Mill Road, Bengaluru 560040
3. Mr. Uttamchand Jain, S/o Mr. Molchand, Partner : M/s. Kalpatru R/at: No. 43/1, 2nd Floor S.M. Lane, Cotton Cross, Akkipet, Bengaluru- 560053.
...Certificate Debtors.

Whereas M/s. Kalpatru & Others, the Certificate Debtors herein were ordered by the Recovery Certificate of this Tribunal passed on the 27th day of December 1019 in **OA No.372/2019** to pay to the Applicant Bank Rs.1,78,74,460/- plus interest and costs, being the sum as noted below, and whereas the said amount has not been paid by the Certificate Debtors.

Recovery Certificate	Details
Principal	Rs. 1,78,74,760.00
Interest from 19/03/19 to 31/12/2020	Rs.58,23,503.00.00
Costs	Rs. 2,14,015.00
Further Interest from 01/01/2021 - till realisation	----------
Total	Rs.2,39,11,978.00

This is to command you to attach the immovable property of the said Certificate Debtors as set forth in the schedule hereunto annexed, or which shall be pointed out to you by the said Recovery Certificate and unless the said CD's and shall pay to you the above said sum and costs of this attachment, to hold the same until further orders from the Recovery Officer.
You are further commanded to return the warrant on or before **26.02.2021** with an endorsement certifying the day on which and the manner in which it has been executed, or why it has not been executed.

SPECIFICATION OF PROPERTY

ITEM No.1: All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing no.48 (earlier bearing no.199 also T 139, then no.243 and later no.299) situated at old Tharagupet, Bengaluru, within the limits of BBMP ward No. 30, measuring East to West 23 Feet and North to south 74 Feet, in all measuring 1,702 Sq.ft. bounded on the East by: Property of Sri G.K. Puttaswamaiah; West by: Property of Dada and Company; North by: Old Tharagupet, South by: Old Patnaoolpet Road

ITEM No.2: All that piece and parcel of Residential property bearing Municipal no.29, PID No. 29-17-29, situtated at Ganigaravillanalane (N.P. Lane), Cottonpet (Aralepet), Bengaluru,within the limits of BBMP Ward no.29, measuring East to West 38 feet 4 inches and North to South: 35 feet 6 inches with adjacent property towards the Eastern side measuring East to West 9 feet 9 inches and North to South : 24 feet in all measuring 1594.83 Sq.ft. bounded on the East by: Property of Mavinamarada Appanna; West by: Property of Contractor Rangadasappa and Kamakka; North by: Property of Ilandamma, Maraagasamma and Manikyamudalair South by: Gongira Pillanna Lane

ITEM No.3: All that piece and parcel of Residential Unit bearing no.4, Municipal no.29/8, PID No. 29-17-29/8, on the 4th floor of the building "Kalpatru Classic", measuring about 1206.33 Sq.ft. of super built up are with one covered car parking space in the stilt area together with 266.59 sq.ft. undivided share of right, title interest of Land comprised in Item no.1 Property East by: Property of Mavinamarada Appanna; West by: Property of Contractor Rangadasappa and Kamakka; North by: Property of Ilandamma, Maraagasamma and Manikyamudalair South by: Gongira Pillanna Lane.

ITEM No.4: All that piece and parcel of Non - Residential Unit bearing Internal No. FT - 3, on the 4th floor of the building "Pooja Avenue" bearing BBMP no.48/33, PID no. 30-2-48/33, measuring about 612.63 Sq.ft. together with 127.63 Sq.ft. undivided share of right title interest of Land compised in Item no.3, East by: Property of Sri G.K. Puttaswamaiah; West by: Property of Dada and Company; North by: Old Tharagupet South by: Old Patnaoolpet Road

ITEM No.5: All that piece and parcel of Non - Residential Unit bearing Internal No. FT - 4, on the 4th floor of the building "Pooja Avenue" bearing BBMP no.48/34, PID no. 30-2-48/33, measuring about 29.58 Sq.ft. together with 6.16 Sq.ft. undivided share of right title interest of Land compised in Item no.1 East by: Common Passage of Pooja Avenue Complex; West by: Staircase area of Pooja Avenue Complex; North by: Staircase area of Pooja Avenue Complex; South by: Staircase area of Pooja Avenue Complex;
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal at Bangalore, on **the 11.02.2021**

Sd/- Recovery Officer-I
Debts Recovery Tribunal-I, Bengaluru

I am not free while any woman is unfree, even when her shackles are very different from my own

Audrey Lorde

DOMINO EFFECT OF INDIAN COST COMPETITIVENESS

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of The Gated Republic, Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution, and Accidental India
(shankkar.aiyar@gmail.com)

EARLIER this week, a multinational pizza brand set media ovens humming with the launch of a pizza at Rs 49. The seven-inch pizza, priced at $ 0.60, is apparently the lowest cost avatar in the world -- the cheapest in Shanghai is around $ 3.80 and a meaty version in outlets at home base Michigan cost around $ 6.00. Characteristically, the launch arrived with click-bait of inflation pricing – makes one wonder if slices would arrive as the next level of cost economics.

Pricing is the preferred weapon for expansion of difficult-to-carve market share. This month, Harley Davidson got headline attention when it launched X440, a bike with a smaller 429CC engine, at ₹2.29 lakh or around $2,790, probably the smallest tag any of the Harleys carry. The nearest price competitor would be Chinese-made X350 at CNY 33,388 costing around $4,840.

History shows that a few seasons after arrival global brands discover the price conscious Indian consumer and make amends to pre-conceived notions of product offerings and pricing. The Indianisation is manifest not just in McAlooTikki but across the a la carte of coffee shops and neon-lit delis fancied by yuppies. The customisation is just as visible in the offerings of wearables and the driveable!

Indian brands are pioneers of price engineering through product design. After all it was the Cuddalore-based CavinKare, blend of the Tamil phrase for beauty and care, which introduced the world to the scale of opportunity embedded in sachet marketing of products with Chik shampoo. Over the years both Indian and multinational brands have adopted sachets as a vehicle to expand market share—from paste to hair dyes to biscuits and oils to offer single digit rupee price to the consumer.

The scale of India's domestic market, informed by India's value for money warriors, has enabled the scope for Indian companies to go global. A good way to chart penetration is to check out the Made-in- India branding which appears in apparels, athleisure, footwear and informal clothing sold under brands in Indian and global malls.

Scandinavian brand Ikea, popular for its ready-to-assemble furniture and home décor goods, works with 48 suppliers from India to stock their shelves across the world. US retail giant Walmart, which hopes to export $ 10 billion of goods sources pharmaceuticals, apparel, home textiles, food and consumables from India. Walmart and Ikea are but two of the giants scaling up sourcing of products in India.

India's track record of cost competitiveness is not limited to daily use goods. Its capability to engineer frugal costs in complex scientific and engineering projects is best illuminated by India's space missions launched by ISRO. India's Mars Orbiter Mission at $ 74 million cost less than the $ 100 million Hollywood spent in making the movie Gravity. The latest Chandrayaan 3 Mission similarly is estimated to cost Rs 615 crore or $ 75 million which is barely a fourth of the $ 291 million it cost Tom Cruise and team to produce Mission Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One.

India's capacity for innovation and price engineering to deliver population scale solutions is visible across its digital infrastructure. The success of Aadhaar to enable ease of living, doing business and ease of governance is well established. India currently boasts of a digital payment system which is the envy of the world. The not-for-profit entity National Payments Corporation of India enables payments across platforms to billions. Just one platform, the Unified Payments Interface, logged over 9.3 billion transactions in June 2023.

Indeed, in recent years global majors have tapped into the ecosystem of innovation to expand operations. India, as per Nasscom, is home to over 50% of the world's Global Capability Centres. A recent E&Y report estimates that by 2030 India will host over 2,400 Global Capability Centres and yield $110 billion in revenues. The surge is not just in the services arena.

Following the unveiling of the production-linked incentive scheme, multinationals set up shop to source electronic goods, ranging from mobile phones to laptops, from manufacturing facilities based in India. Last year, exports of smart phones crossed $ 10-billion mark, led by Samsung and Apple – indeed the iPhone maker's exports out of India jumped four-fold to cross the $ 5-billion mark.

The landscape of geopolitics is evolving and will inform and influence geo-economics. Last year, India's manufacturing exports touched $418 billion and services exports rose to $322 billion. Indian companies supplying global players such as Walmart and Ikea and tech majors enabling the expansion of global capability centres are struggling to expand capacity. India is at the cusp of transformative opportunity, which as per a study by Bain Capital could deliver trillion dollars in exports.

The challenge is how to scale up given the schisms in the political economy. India needs to liberate its power sector from rent seeking electoral sops and free land and labour to enhance employment and productivity. Much rests with the states. The quest for social equity demands installation of efficiency. Above all economic progress calls for harmony. India's politicos must dismantle the mind-set of opportunistic polarised rhetoric for short term electoral gains and induct a strategy for long-term prosperity which a billion Indians aspire for.

RAPACIOUS RAJNEETI CAUSES MANIPUR MAYHEM

POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA
prabhuchawla@newindianexpress.com
Follow him on Twitter @PrabhuChawla

"Which holy river of this country can wash the stairs of flesh clean from our rapes? Which gods of the country have paid heed when we were disrobed?
(Poem by DMK Lok Sabha MP Thamizhachi Thangapandian)

None.

THE drums of fear beat loud in the Valley of Death. A paradise is drenched in blood. In the past three months, over 150 Manipuris died savagely at the hands of their fellow men. Over 30 per cent of the state's population live as refugees in their own country, displaced and desperate, in makeshift, unsanitary camps. Women hid in jungles where two legged beasts possessed by lust and hate prowled for prey. Women were dragged out of their homes, stripped naked, groped and paraded in public before being gang raped. Police armouries were looted, and the houses of politicians burned. Violence has cleaved Manipur into two, between the valley and the hills. Shockingly, its uniformed guardians surrendered their weapons to communal criminals as a cynical state government dozed with one eye open.

Tiny verdant Manipur, with a population of just 2.5 million, once symbolised the best of India in unity in diversity. Hundreds of castes, tribes and three faiths lived in harmony. But politics was weaponised under the leadership of Chief Minister N Biren Singh after the majority Meiteis—mainly Hindus who are 52 per cent of the state's headcount—were accorded Schedule Tribe status in May. This posed a threat to the Kukis, mainly tribal Christians, Nagas and Muslims. For two months, as Manipur cried for help and the world watched in horror, national leaders from the BJP and a spineless media averted their faces. Instead, they celebrated celebrities in politics, business and cinema. It took an online video of two violated women being publicly dishonoured to force Prime Minister Narendra Modi to speak; his party and ministers, who daredn't open their mouths until he did, began to babble banalities. But the government went into the defensive more. Its leaders, including the Chief Minister, organised protests against the video and not against the barbaric act.

FILE PHOTO

After the European Union condemned the Manipur massacres, South Block fumed against "external interference in India's internal affairs." However, the Supreme Court was furious. Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud warned, "We are deeply disturbed by the video that emerged yesterday..." " Visuals that have appeared in the media indicate gross constitutional violation and infraction of human rights, remarked the court, adding that "use of women as instruments of violence in a charged atmosphere is unacceptable in a constitutional democracy".

Perhaps thinking that his opponents would distort any comment by him, Modi was maybe waiting for the right time and an appropriate venue to express his resolve. He stated, "The entire country has been shamed" and "I want to assure the nation, no guilty [people] will be spared..." "Action will be taken according to the law. What happened to the daughters of Manipur can never be forgiven... my heart is filled with pain and anger." Immediately, his party leaders went into moral overdrive. But Manipur's Chief Minister N Biren Singh, the villain of the hour, avoided tough questions from a conveniently conscientious press. He just tweeted, "A thorough investigation is currently underway, and we will ensure strict action is taken against all the perpetrators, including considering the possibility of capital punishment." Why did it take him over two months to even promise an investigation and take action?

Fortunately, all political parties had the good sense not to exploit the mayhem communally. But the consensus was that the bloodbath was Biren's political ploy to keep his chair; a politician of two decades, he is a Meiti icon with strong Hindutva leanings. The 62 year old former footballer and ex-Congress neta began his career in the BSF before joining the regional Democratic Revolutionary Peoples Party and won from Heingang Assembly Constituency in 2002. He joined the Congress in 2003 and became a minister. He jumped ship to the BJP in 2016, contested the 2017 Assembly elections and won a record fourth term. He was the natural choice for Chief Minister. Biren's agenda is to leverage maximum political rights for his community. He cleverly exploited his brand of Hindutva to hoodwink the leadership and the Centre. Even during Home Minister Amit Shah's four day visit to Manipur, he never displayed remorse. If local sources are to be trusted, he hid all horrendous details from Shah. A visibly incensed HM visited violence affected Kuki areas without Biren. He ordered the constitution of a Peace Committee under Governor Anasuiya Uike. But Biren sabotaged its efforts. According to a report by a pro-establishment portal, Amit Shah had advised Biren to quit or face the consequences. The CM dug in, and the Centre replaced the pro-Meitei DGP.

The BJP made the strategic mistake of keeping schtum for over two months, allowing its hardcore elements to dictate the narrative, which invited charges of communal connivance. Some leaders tried to politicise the Army, which promptly denied any bias; Army Chief General Manoj Pande visited Manipur. But incendiary comments by Assam's chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who heads the North East Democratic Alliance and is the current poster boy of hardcore Hindutva, told a journalist that "the distribution of population is such that seventy per cent of people are in thirty per cent landmass. Kukis and Nagas can come to the valley, but Meiteis cannot go to the hills. It is the same thing in Assam also, with regard to Bodoland." R R Singh, BJP MP from Inner Manipur and a Minister of State for External Affairs, has reportedly demanded the abolition of Article 371, which prevents non tribals from acquiring land in the state's hill areas. Such ideological rhetoric led to total neutrality from the Centre. No overzealous TV warrior took a clear stand on the pogrom. BJP netas ducked when faced by the media or Opposition leaders. The silence was counterproductive. It allowed Modi's enemies to castigate him for inaction. Rahul Gandhi and many anti BJP netas visited Manipur. Parliament became a battleground of conscience. Since both the Opposition and the saffron establishment are unwilling to step back from the precipice of confrontation, Manipur faces irreparable damage to its identity. Tragically, India, with all its strengths, cannot tame community goons who feast on blood and pain. The BJP must realise that losing two Lok Sabha seats from tiny Manipur cannot affect the outcome of the 2024 polls. Biren Singh and his sponsors are a serious threat to the idea of Vishwa Guru Bharat.

Last week, an anguished Naga woman poet wrote, "Women to women! Yes, the violence is flesh to flesh, brothers. But the judgement is soul to soul." The soul of Manipur is scarred, and the flesh of its women has been shredded by beasts with political protection. History neither forgives nor forgets the mangulation of innocents. The epitaphs of political reputations through the ages are proof of its vengeance.

HUMAN IN HERO, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND

OPINION

SUDHIR SRINIVASAN
Executive Editor, Entertainment
(sudhir.sreenivasan@gmail.com)

ALL business comes to a halt when a Christopher Nolan film comes to town. His Oppenheimer is finally here—and it's expectedly impressive in conception and craft. As an Indian viewer exposed to our biopics that thrive in romanticisation and deification, I was struck and surprised by the refusal of this film to valourise the man on whom the film is based: Dr J Robert Oppenheimer. It's important to remember that this film is wholly funded by American companies, distributed by an American company, and made by a half-American filmmaker. Its objective is to capture the psyche of Oppenheimer, a pivotal figure behind one of the most significant moments in American history: The bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Given that even recent surveys show that most Americans believe the bombings to be justified, there was tremendous interest to see how a filmmaker of the stature of Nolan would approach his first-ever biopic—one based on the life of the father of the atomic bomb, no less.

The film wins on several counts. First, the obvious. It does not celebrate the bombings, as you might expect. A more impressive win is how it captures the American pride around it as a detached observer. In a scene just after the twin bombings, Oppenheimer (an incredible Cillian Murphy) is the toast of the nation. The film presents all the maniacal cheering as a deranged expression, while Oppenheimer is shown in a daze, not exactly in control of the words that seem to be flowing through him. Should Oppenheimer have stopped the bombings? Did he regret taking over The Manhattan Project? The film doesn't slap its judgments but offers helpful hints ("Genius is no guarantee of wisdom"). It simply shows Oppenheimer's conflict... and allows us to process his pride and patriotism, his regret and vulnerability, his competence and comeuppance... and make our judgments, if we must. It allows us to process his humanity, flaws and all, and the realisation that in a world that is not black or white, people, sometimes, are caught between two frightful choices.

All of this nuance, this exploration of grey, starkly contrasts Indian cinema's general treatment of biopics. We seek to sell heroism, not humanity. Where a film like Oppenheimer draws out the human from the 'hero', our biopics care only about the 'hero' in the human. Our cameras often revolve around the biopic protagonist in reverence and awe—like in Shabhaash Mithu (the biopic of cricketer Mithali Raj). We make a biopic of a tortured personality like Savitri (Mahanati), but we won't show her as anything less than an angel parading on earth (as indicated by a constant aura around Keerthy Suresh in the film). We make a film about J Jayalalithaa (Thalaivi), a politician who has her share of admirers and detractors, but the story conveniently ends before her big mistakes occur. We chart the achievements of Nambi Narayanan (Rocketry: The Nambi Effect), but we squirm about touching the uncomfortable dynamics at his home. Sanju, MS Dhoni: The Untold Story, Azhar, the list of biopics that whitewash the protagonist's story is endless. Any fall that occurs in these narratives is a device with which to amp up heroism.

Is heroism uttering a line from the Bhagavad Gita as an atom bomb explodes? Or is it hanging one's head in remorse at realising the consequences?

Is this a consequence of long-term hero worship? Has our ability to tolerate 'human protagonists' also been altered by the influx of superhero cinema—whose many stories are just a collection of 'mass moments' designed to draw a collective cheer? A real shocker during my experience of watching Oppenheimer was when a large section of the audience clapped and celebrated the Trinity test detonation when Oppenheimer mutters, in meditative melancholy, "Now I am become death, the destroyer of worlds." This isn't a hero moment at all, quite the contrary, but it didn't seem to matter for an audience that had waited a long time searching for something to clap at. Is this why our biopics—and generally our films—are eager to sell easy heroism? Here's a bigger question. Is heroism uttering a line from the Bhagavad Gita as an atom bomb explodes? Or is it hanging one's head in remorse at realising the consequences?

A deeper understanding of people and their fallibility—in reality or in biopics—requires empathy and, more importantly, patience, which seems now in such short supply. For the patient, the three-hour Nolan film is a breeze; for the easily distracted, it might feel like a never-ending series of dry conversations. None of this is to absolve Nolan's Oppenheimer from legitimate criticism. For instance, the film doesn't concern itself with the damaging aftermath of the Trinity test; there's little place for women in the film; the personal relationships aren't exactly etched out well. However, as a biopic, there's plenty it offers. But we don't seem too fussed. Instead, we are already complaining about the film's use of a Bhagavad Gita line in a bedroom scene. Oh well, normal business seems to have resumed already.

QUOTE CORNER

We are of the view that the court must be apprised of the steps taken by the government to hold the perpetrators accountable and also to ensure that such instances are not repeated in the strife in Manipur.... Using women as instruments to perpetrate violence is simply unacceptable in a constitutional democracy

D Y Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India

It is imperative to maintain principles established by the Shanghai Communique, appreciate the utmost importance China attaches to the one-China principle, and move the relationship in a positive direction

Henry Kissinger, Former US diplomat

For Novak it's one more day, one more moment. For me, it's going to be the best moment of my life, I think

Carlos Alcaraz, Spanish tennis player

MAILBAG WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Manipur violence

In Manipur after brutal public gang-rape, a video goes viral. Now comes another video showing a severed head following a murder. What's happening in lawless Manipur. Nobody has hopes about this Manipur government. The Centre is directly responsible for the Manipur catastrophe. It's a genocide-like situation for tribal Kukis in Manipur.

Devadas V. Kannur

Parliament disruption

It is unfortunate that two dedicated parliament news channels have to cover other events because of the disruption of proceedings in both houses by the opposition parties. While the ruling party wanted the day's agenda to be followed, the opposition wanted the Manipur problem to be discussed on priority basis. Either the ruling party or the opposition should shed their rigidity and allow smooth conduct of the proceedings. The people elect their representatives to parliament to speak on important issues that hurt their interests and the government of the day also owes its responsibility to voters. The tax payers' money should not be wasted due to clash of egos.

K S Sundaram, Coimbatore

Manipur atrocity

Apropos of editorial, Bridge divide or women will continue to bear brunt in Manipur (July 22). Recurring acts of cruelty against women and harassing them publicly in ongoing ethnic riots in Manipur shock the country. Had the authorities aptly considered action, culprits would not have dared to be so daring. There is no doubt that root cause for the aggravation is the lapses on the part of state government.

B V Thampi, email

Congress intolerance

A Rajasthan minister's ouster for telling the truth about an incident in which the modesty of a woman was outraged says much about Congress CM's intolerance. Congress which is shouting aloud about Manipur incident should now ask its CM of Rajasthan to take immediate action. Will Congress High Command act positively, instead of sacking the minister who brought out the truth?

V S Ganeshan, Bengaluru

Snake bites

It is horrifying to know that the Indian contribution to fatal snake bites every year is approximately 58,000. Kudos to ICMR's awareness campaign to save lives, although the problem of inaccessibility to hospitals persists, now at least a few lives in the remote rural areas could be saved through first aid treatment and preventive measures.

Lloyd Lobo, Thiruvananthapuram

Elephants' fate

It is indeed sad to see the alarming decline in wild elephants in Kerala. It is not surprising as the poor pachyderms do not have a proper place to feed in Kerala. The forests are declining, encroachment is increasing. If the government fails to take proper measures to control such losses, the day is not too far when like many other species, elephants will also become extinct in Kerala.

Dr Naveen Madhu, Calicut

Questionable alliance

Apropos What NDA's sudden 'revival' means for BJP in 2024 – (July 22). There is hardly any meat in the NDA alliance as apart from the BJP, many of the alliance partners are regional outfits who can hardly add much to the NDA's tally in the LS polls. An added worry for the BJP is the splintering of parties like the Shiv Sena (only the Eknath Shinde faction supports the BJP) and the NCP (the Ajit Pawar faction has thrown its weight behind the BJP) which could affect the NDA's performance in Maharashtra. The BJP has to steamroll the opposition all by itself and unless regional parties with clout like the Biju Janata Dal and the YSRCP become part of the NDA, the grand alliance might not be worth much.

C V Aravind, Chennai

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Amit Malviya @amitmalviya
Congress leader Pratap Singh Bajwa rubbishes AAP, asks what is the need for an alliance? He is basically telling Rahul Gandhi and team to take a walk.

Jairam Ramesh @Jairam_Ramesh
First, the govt staked claim on the land of Sarva Seva Sangh in Varanasi and gave notice. When the matter went to court, now there is a preparation to run bulldozers forcibly.

Mahua Moitra @MahuaMoitra
Spreading zillion fake videos & creating fake hype on alleged crimes in Opposition-ruled states does nothing to take away from horror in Manipur. You cannot hide it.

India leader in combating climate change, says Modi

At G20 Energy Ministers' meet, PM lists the country's green initiatives

AMIT MUKHERJEE @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that India has taken great strides in green growth, energy transition and renewable segments. He asserted that the country is moving ahead strongly on its climate commitments.

Addressing the G20 Energy Ministers' meet in Goa digitally, the Prime Minister said that despite being the most populated nation and the fastest-growing large economy in the world, "India is strongly moving towards its climate commitments."

Enlisting several green initiatives taken by India, the PM said that India has achieved its non-fossil installed electric capacity target nine years in advance and set a higher target for itself. He mentioned that the nation plans to achieve 50 percent non-fossil installed capacity by 2030.

"India is also among the global leaders in solar and wind power," the PM said, stating that the level and scale of the Pavagada Solar Park and Modhera Solar Village, which was showcased before the working group delegates, is an example of India's commitment to clean energy initiatives.

Realising the vision of interconnected green grids can be transforming. It will enable all of us to meet our climate goals, stimulate green investment...

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

"Our effort is to work for inclusive, resilient, equitable and sustainable energy for all," the PM said, citing the task taken up by the Indian government to provide piped cooking gas to people that has the potential to cover more than 90 per cent of the population in a few years.

India has already connected more than 190 million families with LPG while also recording the historic milestone of connecting every village with electricity, the PM said, adding that even though every nation has a different reality and pathway for energy transition, he firmly believes that the goals of every country are the same.

He emphasized on finding ways to bridge technology gaps, promote energy security and on diversifying supply chains. The PM, suggesting about strengthening collaboration on the 'fuels for the future', remarked that the 'high-level principles on hydrogen' are a step in the right direction.

He further added that transnational grid interconnections can enhance energy security and India is promoting this mutually beneficial cooperation with its neighbours.

"Realising the vision of interconnected green grids can be transforming. It will enable all of us to meet our climate goals, stimulate green investment, and create millions of green jobs," the PM said. He extended an invitation to all participating nations to join the Green Grids Initiative – 'One Sun, One World, One Grid' of the International Solar Alliance.

To decarbonise India, the PM said the country is "working on mission mode on green hydrogen as an alternative and aims to make India a global hub for its production, use and export."

Motive necessary for conviction if no eyewitness, says SC

AMIT MUKHERJEE @ New Delhi

THE prosecution will have to establish the motive for commission of a crime if there is no eyewitness of an incident, the Supreme Court said on Saturday while acquitting a man convicted for murder in 2008.

Taking note of the fact that all the witnesses have stated that there was no enmity between the petitioner and the deceased, the apex court bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Ahsanuddin Amanullah observed, "Once there is no eyewitness of the incident, the prosecution will have to establish a motive for the commission of the crime in as much as in a case of direct evidence."

The observations of the bench came in its order on a petition filed by a man challenging an order of the Chhattisgarh High Court, which confirmed his conviction under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code and the sentence to undergo life imprisonment along with a fine.

The bench, in its order, observed, "No motive has been set up by the prosecution as to why the appellant would assault the deceased. All the witnesses, who are in fact family members, have stated that there was no enmity between the appellant and the deceased."

Taking into consideration that there is no eyewitness of the incident, the bench said that the prosecution will have to establish a motive for the commission of the crime, since in a case of direct evidence, motive may not have a major role. "If there is no motive set up or proved and there are direct eyewitnesses, motive may lose its importance. But in the present case, as admittedly no one has seen the occurrence, the motive has an important role to play," it said.

Taking note that the even medical evidence did not support the prosecution case "as the weapon of assault could not have caused injury on the deceased as noticed in the post-mortem report," the bench also observed that "there was no motive as to why the appellant would commit the murder of an acquaintance and a friend for no reason." Observing that in view of all facts "the prosecution had failed to establish the (murder) charge," the bench said in its order.

J ROBERT OPPENHEIMER

'I AM BECOME DEATH, THE DESTROYER OF WORLDS'

BALA CHAUHAN

SOURAV ROY

THE two atomic bombs of August 6 and 9, 1945, killed an estimated 1,40,000 people in Hiroshima and another 74,000 in Nagasaki, respectively. The bomb code-named 'Little Boy' that detonated over Hiroshima at 8.15 am had an explosive yield equal to 15,000 tonnes of TNT. A slightly larger bomb code-named 'Fat Man' exploded over Nagasaki, levelling 6.7 sq km of the city. The bombs scorched the earth at 4000°C as radioactive rain poured down on the bustling cities; the survivors and their descendants suffered from various cancers and deformities due to genetic mutation, owing to radioactive exposure.

Just days before, on July 16, 1945, when the world's first atomic bomb was tested successfully under the Manhattan Project at the Los Alamos, New Mexico, the 'Father of Atomic Bomb' — Dr Julius Robert Oppenheimer — said in an emotionally charged speech: "I know the world will not be the same... I remember the line from the Hindu scripture, the Bhagavad Gita. Vishnu (as Lord Krishna) is trying to persuade the prince (Arjuna) to do his duty, and to impress him, he takes on his multi-arms form and says, 'Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds'."

In 1939, prominent scientists Albert Einstein, Leo Szilard and Eugene Wigner had warned the US government of the dangers of Adolf Hitler's Germany making the nuclear bomb first. The result was the Manhattan Project, set up as a research and development undertaking to create the first nuclear weapon.

Oppenheimer became involved in nuclear research in 1941. In September 1942, Lieutenant General Leslie Richard Groves Jr, a United States Army Corps of Engineers officer who oversaw the construction of the Pentagon, was appointed director of the Manhattan Project, and appointed Oppenheimer as head of the project's secret weapons laboratory, where the latter's duties involved developing and detonating the first-ever nuclear bomb. The code name for the test was 'Trinity', inspired by the 17th Century poet John Donne, one of Oppenheimer's inspirations at the Manhattan Project.

"It did not take atomic weapons to make man want peace. But the atomic bomb was the turn of the screw. The atomic bomb made the prospect of future war unendurable. It has led those last steps to the mountain pass; and beyond there is a different country," Oppenheimer once said.

Born on April 22, 1904, to a German immigrant couple, Oppenheimer was an undergraduate from Harvard before he went overseas to pursue higher studies. He was invited by German physicist Max Born to the University of Göttingen. "In 1927, at the age of 23, he received his doctorate in 'Born-Oppenheimer Approximation' on motion of electrons in atoms and molecules, an important cornerstone of molecular physics. He later returned to the USA to teach physics at University of California at Berkeley and the California Institute of Technology.

After World War II, Oppenheimer served as the head of the advisory committee to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) between 1947 and 1952. In 1949, the commission voted against the development of the hydrogen bomb. In December 21, 1953, he was notified of a military security report unfavourable to him, in which he was accused of having links with communists, of delaying the naming of Soviet agents, and of opposing the hydrogen bomb. In1954, a security hearing declared him not guilty of treason, but barred him access to military secrets. His contract as advisor to the AEC was cancelled.

But 55 years after his death in 1967, the US Department of Energy formally vacated the revocation of Oppenheimer's security clearance in 2022, claiming that "bias and unfairness" of a "flawed process" had led to the physicist's exile from the nuclear establishment.

Besides being the 'father' of the most savage weapon in history, Oppenheimer was a student of poetry, a linguist of six tongues, and searcher for spiritual ideals.

In 1940, he married Katharine Puening, a graduate student in botany at the University of California, Los Angeles, and had two children. He succumbed to throat cancer on February 18, 1967, at Princeton.

In a recent interview with The New York Times, writer-director of the biopic, Oppenheimer, Chrisopher Nolan said the physicist's story is "central to the way in which we live now and the way we are going to live forever... He gave the world the power to destroy itself. No one has done that before."

NEWSMAKER

Oppn unlikely to budge on demand for PM's statement on Manipur

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE Opposition will continue the protest in Parliament demanding a statement from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the Manipur incident.

As part of its collective strategy, floor leaders of the newly formed Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) are scheduled to meet on Monday before the start of the third day of the monsoon session.

The meeting at the chamber of Mallikarjun Kharge, leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, will discuss the strategy to be adopted on the floor of both the Houses.

According to sources, Opposition MPs have also planned a protest on Monday near the statue of Mahatma Gandhi, demanding debate on the incident. A senior Opposition leader said the protest will never die down until Prime Minister Narendra Modi gives a statement on the floor of both the Houses.

"The Manipur ethnic violence and recent stripping and parading of two naked woman have badly exposed the failure of Manipur government on law and order front," remarked an Opposition leader.

Since the first day of the ongoing monsoon session, the Opposition leaders have been insisting that the Prime Minister make a statement on the Manipur issue. In the last two days of the ongoing session, the Opposition created din over the Manipur issue.

Meanwhile, one of the prominent MPs of Opposition in Raya Sabha and noted lawyer of Kapil Sibal on Saturday lashed out at the Modi government , saying that the only way forward in Manipur is to sack Chief Minister N Biren Singh immediately and bring the violence-hit state under the President's rule.

Taking to Twitter, Sibal said, "The only way forward: sack Biren Singh; impose Article 356; apologies to the women of our country. Nothing has changed since Nirbhaya: Unnao, Hatharas, Kathua, Bilkis (convict released). Beti Bachao PM ji".

Railways a constant 'soft target' for agitators, loses ₹1,360 cr in 4 years

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

A GROUP of people pelted the Lucknow-Gorakhpur Vande Bharat train near Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh with stones recently, to vent their ire days after the train mowed down a herd of goats.

Another group, some examinees in Bihar, damaged the railway property, angry over alleged irregularities in the Non-Technical Popular Category examinations in 2022.

The coaches of over 12 trains were set on fire by unruly youths in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh protesting against the Agnipath scheme, which was not even remotely related to the railway. The list of such incidents is bigger showing how the Indian Railway is a soft target during agitations.

As a result, the Railways run into huge losses, owing to damage to property and disruptions in services, including cancellation of trains.

Resorting to stone-pelting on running trains has become a common act of vandalism during agitations in the country.

"Around 4,233 incidents of stone-pelting on trains were reported by the Railways during the last three years, from 2020 to 2022," Union railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw informed the Upper House of Parliament in a written reply to on Friday.

According to a source, the Railways suffered losses to the tune of ₹151 crore in 2019, ₹904 crore in 2020, ₹62 crore in 2021 and ₹259.44 crore in 2022, due to agitations and other disruptions.

The Railways is made a target always by agitating people for reasons not even remotely related to it. When the results of exam are not published, the examinees damage railway property. When goats or cattle are run over, people damage and disrupt the railways. Even when the local administrations don't listen to people's demands or grievances, railway property is targeted

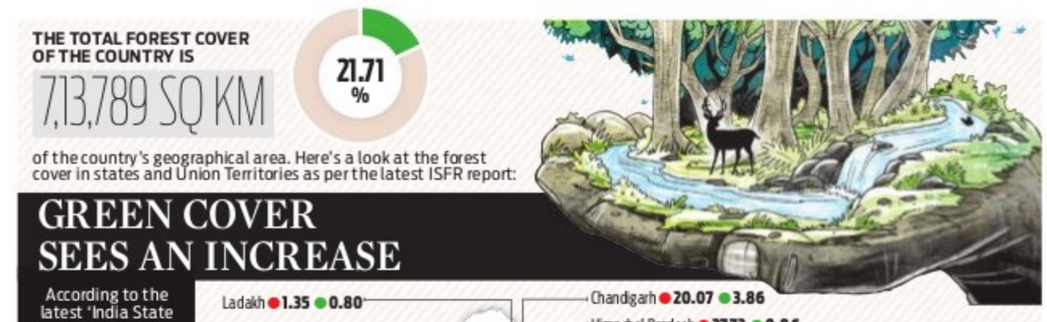
Railways official

In summary, the Indian Railways faced a whopping loss of around ₹1,376.44 crore in the last four years.

Sources said around 60 coaches were burnt in 2022 alone during violent agitation against the Central government's Agnipath scheme.

"The losses to Railways also included damages done to railway property in the estimated overall losses in the last few years. The Railways is made a target always by agitating people for reasons not even remotely related to it. When the results of exam are not published, the examinees damage railway property. When goats or cattle are run over, people damage and disrupt the trains. Even when the local administrations don't listen to people's demands or grievances, railway property is targeted," remarked a senior Railways official.

Citing an example of how the agitation causes loss to the country's Railways, the official said that a loss of over ₹60 crore was incurred in 2019 just due to the Jat agitation that year.


THE TOTAL FOREST COVER OF THE COUNTRY IS
7,13,789 SQ KM
21.71 %
of the country's geographical area. Here's a look at the forest cover in states and Union Territories as per the latest ISFR report:
GREEN COVER SEES AN INCREASE
According to the latest 'India State of Forest Report 2021', published by the Forest Survey of India-Dehradun, under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India's forest cover has increased by
1,540 sq km
during the biennial assessments between ISFR 2019 and ISFR 2021.
SOURCE Press Information Bureau
Ladakh 1.35 0.80
Jammu & Kashmir 39.15 0.14
Punjab 3.67 -0.11
Haryana 3.63 0.06
Rajasthan 4.87 0.15
Gujarat 7.61 0.46
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu 37.83 0.04
Madhya Pradesh 25.14 0.01
Maharashtra 16.51 0.04
Goa 60.62 0.31
Karnataka 20.19 0.40
Kerala 54.70 0.52
Lakshadweep 90.33 Nil
Chandigarh 20.07 3.86
Himachal Pradesh 27.73 0.06
Delhi 13.15 -0.23
Uttarakhand 45.44 0.01
Uttar Pradesh 6.15 0.08
Sikkim 47.08 -0.03
Arunachal Pradesh 79.33 -0.39
Nagaland 73.90 -1.88
Assam 36.09 -0.05
Manipur 74.34 -1.48
Mizoram 84.53 -1.03
Meghalaya 76.00 -0.43
Tripura 73.64 -0.05
Bihar 7.84 1.03
West Bengal 18.96 -0.41
Jharkhand 29.76 0.47
Odisha 33.50 1.04
Chhattisgarh 41.21 0.19
A & N Islands 81.75 0.01
Telangana 18.93 3.07
Andhra Pradesh 18.28 2.22
Puducherry 10.88 1.70
Tamil Nadu 20.31 0.21
INDIA
FOREST COVER AS % OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREA TOTAL 0.22 | % OF CHANGE TOTAL 21.71

NHAI looks at speedy settlement of disputes

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

TO ensure smooth implementation of the Centre's ambitious 'Vivad Se Vishwas' (one-time settlement scheme) aimed at effective resolution of contractual disputes, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has prepared a 15-point Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), under which the agency will make a settlement within 15 days after receiving a claim.

The nodal officer appointed by the NHAI will forward cases pertaining up to ₹500 crore to the technical division, which will send the same to the finance wing for concurrence after evaluation. The finance division will examine the evaluation within three days and forward it to the member (finance) for the approval.

The technical division may consult its team of advocates if required. In case the claim exceeds ₹500 crore, the technical division will have an option to accept or reject the settlement request for the contractor, only with the approval of the executive committee.

The date of commencement of the settlement scheme is July 15 and the claims can be submitted by October 31. The scheme was announced in the Union Budget 2023-24 by Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and was launched in May.

"Technical division, after having approval of the settlement account, offers the same to the contractor for acceptance on GeM portal through nodal officer, that is GM (legal), normally within two weeks of receiving the claim on the portal from the contractor," reads the NHAI procedure.

The contractor will have a 30-day window to make a decision. After the acceptance, an acknowledgement email will be generated and sent to both the parties. Before the contractor's acceptance, the NHAI will have the option to amend the offer. But once the offer is accepted, the Authority wouldn't be able to amend or withdraw.

After the acknowledgement is generated, the technical division will write to the contractor to withdraw the ongoing case or litigation in the court. If NHAI has filed the case, it will file an application for the withdrawal of the case.

"The contractor shall submit a document indicating court permission to withdraw the case within 45 days of generation of email. On the submission of the same settlements agreement shall be signed within 30 days...however if NHAI has filed an application for withdrawal, it need not for the permission of the court and sign the settlement agreement in 30 days," the SOP says.

Guidelines issued to install signages along highways

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

THE Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued a fresh set of guidelines to install road signages and warning panels at the national highways and expressways.

According to new guidelines, 'no parking' and 'speed limit' signages will be installed at the interval of every 5 km. The Speed Gantry—vehicle and speed-wise land dedicated information — should be planted at every 20 km.

Functionally, road signages are classified into mandatory or regulatory, cautionary or warning, and informatory or guide. Font size of the letters are also defined.

YATRA DEATHS

Two more Amarnath pilgrims have died, taking the death toll during this year's pilgrimage in the south Kashmir Himalayas to 36, officials said on Saturday. The two pilgrims belonged to Rajasthan.

03 DEAD AS CAR FALLS INTO GORGE IN HIMACHAL'S BILASPUR

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	38	32	Mumbai	38	34
Bhopal	37	32	Panaji	39	34
Jaipur	38	32	Patna	37	31
Amritsar	40	33	Lucknow	37	31
Chennai	36	30	Port Blair	34	28
Kolkata	36	31	Imphal	30	22
Srinagar	31	28	Chandigarh	40	33

■ Speculation rife over Ajit Pawar becoming new Maha CM soon ■ Minister's dismissal hints at internal politics of Cong ahead of polls

Shinde meets PM amid rumours of replacement

Ajit Pawar will be soon elevated as chief minister of Maharashtra and Shinde will be soon dumped by the BJP. It is BJP's known policy to use and dump once the utility of the person is over

Sanjay Raut, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

AMID speculation about elevation of deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar as chief minister of Maharashtra, incumbent CM Eknath Shinde's abrupt visit to Delhi and his family members' courtesy meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been termed as farewell meeting in political circles.

Maharashtra CM Ekanth Shinde on last Friday met deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis and felicitated him one day before his birthday on July 22.

Shinde conveyed that he would not be in Mumbai on July 22 and therefore he decided to felicitate Fadnavis on his birthday in advance.

After that Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde packed his bag for his abrupt and unscheduled Delhi visit to meet the top BJP leaders.

Shinde, his spouse, father and his son Dr Shrikant Shinde and his spouse met the Prime Minister and termed it as a courtesy visit.

Meanwhile, NCP Ajit Pawar faction's spokesman Amol Mitkar on social media wished his party deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar. He stated Ajit Pawar will soon be sworn in as chief minister of Maharashtra and Ajit era will soon start.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut claimed that Ajit Pawar will be soon elevated as chief minister of Maharashtra and Shinde will be soon dumped by the BJP. It is BJP's known policy to use and dump once the utility of the person is over, he alleged.

Ajit Pawar and Praful Patel had recently met PM Modi and Union minister Amit Shah in Delhi after the meeting of NDA allies.

Interestingly, CM Shinde was also part of the NDA meeting and very much in Delhi, but he was not asked to be part of the confidential meeting that took place between NCP leaders and PM Narendra Modi and Amit Shah.

Shiv Sena (Shinde) spokesperson Sanjay Bhor Patil denied that such a report and criticized Amol Mitkari for speculating the things and saying NCP is in hurry for chief minister's post and forgetting that they are the part of this grand alliance in Maharashtra.

Courtesy meet with PM

Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde packed his bag for his abrupt and unscheduled Delhi visit to meet the top BJP leaders. Shinde, his spouse, father and his son Dr Shrikant Shinde and his spouse met the Prime Minister and termed it as a 'courtesy visit'.

Gehlot's action reflects fresh churning in Raj Cong

Comparing the situation in Rajasthan with that of Manipur is unjustifiable.... Rajendra Gudha issue pertains to the party's internal affairs and discussions within the party would address the situation

Ashok Gehot, Raj CM

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

THE dismissal of Rajendra Singh Gudha, Soldiers' Welfare Minister in Rajasthan, by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has sparked a controversy on women's safety issues. A day after the dismissal, Gehlot held a press conference in Jaipur on Saturday but refrained from clarifying the reasons behind the minister's removal.

However, he staunchly defended his government's record on law and order and dismissed allegations of crimes against women. The CM emphasised that comparing the situation in Rajasthan with that of Manipur is unjustifiable.

When asked about the continuous criticism and protests against the government by Rajendra Gudha, who had been vocal about various issues, including law and order, CM Gehlot responded that this matter pertains to the party's internal affairs.

He asserted that discussions within the party would address the situation, and the press conference should focus on the current subject.

It appeared that the former minister had been challenging CM Gehlot's government for several months, making provocative statements. However, his recent remarks during the assembly session seem to have triggered his dismissal from the government.

Gudha is among the six former BSP MLAs who switched to the Congress in 2020. Though he was earlier in the Gehlot group, in the past year or so he had moved into the Sachin Pilot camp. Given his provocative remarks in the last few months, many believe that his recent actions indicate a desire to leave the Congress before the upcoming elections.

Notably, Rajendra Gudha's repeated statements had been causing discomfort for the Ashok Gehlot government. However, experts also opine that Gudha himself may have orchestrated this situation to distance himself from the Gehlot government.

Having contested three elections so far, Rajendra Gudha won two on the Bahujan Samaj Party ticket. Despite his victories, he joined the Congress along with other BSP MLAs on both occasions and held ministerial positions.

'Challenging Gehlot'

It appeared that the former minister had been challenging CM's government for several months, making provocative statements. However, his recent remarks during the assembly session seem to have triggered his dismissal.

CHANDIGARH DIARY

HARPREET BAJWA
Our correspondent in Chandigarh
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Photo-ops by leaders amid floods in state

Nineteen districts in Punjab remain flooded. Leaders across party lines are visiting the affected areas, but they make it a point to get themselves clicked while visiting flood victims. CM Bhagwant Mann was clicked walking in muck-filled fields, with Rajya Sabha MP Balbir Singh on tow. He was seen riding a boat to oversee a repair work to plug breach in the Sutluj River. Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal was seen touring flood-hit villages on a tractor. EX-CM Amarinder Singh's daughter and now BJP leader Jai Inder Kaur was wading through waist-deep water, carrying relief material on her head.

Mann takes jibe at Haryana, Himachal

While visiting flood-affected areas in Patiala, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann asked if Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, which have been demanding water and cess from Punjab, are willing to take excess water from the state. "These states are always ready to ask for more share, why not now? Himachal is also seeking cess. What about the water which we get from the hills (due to excess rain)?," asked Mann. Haryana CM refrained from commenting. However, ex- CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda said, "If you didn't stop the SYL project, Punjab would not have been flooded."

Mining in Beas behind floods: HP minister

Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department minister Vikramaditya Singh, who is the son of former chief minister Virbhadra Singh, blamed alleged illegal mining for the damage caused by the floods along the Beas river in Kullu district. "This cannot be only blamed on God or nature. River changed its course due to banks damaged by illegal mining. One may like it or not, but it's the truth. I am sure, CM is aware of it," he said. Singh's remarks did not go down well with his cabinet colleagues, who are primarily loyal to CM Sukhu. Industry minister Harshwardhan Singh Chauhan dismissed Vikramaditya's allegations as childish.

A contingent of the Gorkha Brigade | PTI

Tribals may fill Gorkha void as Nepal stops induction

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

WITH the induction of Gorkhas from Nepal on hold for the past two years, the Indian Army is planning to recruit tribals from India with similar traits to address the fast-depleting strength of the famed *khukri*-wielding Gorkha Rifles soldiers.

Officials told this paper the plan will kick off if the impasse over recruitment from Nepal does not get resolved.

Explaining the idea of recruiting "tribals with similar traits", an official said those with the physical attributes residing in the upper reaches of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Darjeeling may be considered.

Soldiers of the Gorkha Rifles are known for their devotion to duty, bravery, loyalty and discipline. The Gorkhas have a reputation built over two centuries with their exemplary war-time successes. The motto attached with them is "it is better to die than be a coward".

The term Gorkhas is popularly used for Nepalese soldiers serving in the Indian Army, British Gorkha Brigade and Singapore Police. In the Indian Army, Gorkhas serve in the Gorkha Rifles, Naga Regiment, Assam Regiment, and Unit of Guards regiment. All these are under the Ministry of Defence. They also join the Assam Rifles, which provides support to the Army but is under the administrative charge of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

A similar experimental step to expand the recruitment pool was taken in 2021, by allowing a higher number of youth from Garhwal and Kumaon regions of Uttarakhand to join select regiments of Gorkha Rifles.

Contingency plan

The Army's contingency plan comes amidst the Nepal government's decision to put on hold drafting of their citizens into the Indian Army's Gorkha infantry regiments over some objections to Agnipath

BJP, TMC spar as two Dalit women stripped and beaten in Bengal

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

AMID outrage over a video showing two disrobed women being paraded in Manipur, the BJP alleged that in West Bengal's Malda, two Dalit women were stripped and beaten up three days ago and the police swung into action only after the video went viral and on Saturday detained five suspects in connection with the incident.

Showing a video of the alleged incident, BJP IT cell chief Amit Malviya described the attackers "a frenzied mob baying for her blood".

Pradeep Kumar Yadav, Malda SP, said that the police lodged a suo motu FIR after coming to know about the incident. "An investigation is going on to identify the attackers. Five women have been detained for interrogation," he said.

Video footage of the incident shows a group of women assaulting the two with slippers and tearing their clothes.

Witnesses told the police that five Dalit women from the Manikchak area of the district, who had come to the local market to sell their product, were caught stealing from other women. While, three managed to escape, two women were caught.

The BJP raised the issue hours after West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, while addressing TMC's annual event on July 21, attacked the saffron party over violence in Manipur. "BJP's Beti Bachao campaign has turned into Beti Jalao in reality".

Hitting out at Mamata, Malviya tweeted, "The horror continues in West Bengal. Two tribal women were stripped naked, tortured and beaten mercilessly, while the police remained a mute spectator in Pakua Hat area of Bamangola police station.... It had all the making of a tragedy that should have 'broken' Mamata Banerjee's heart and she, instead of merely outraging, could have acted, since she is also the home minister of Bengal."

Accusing the BJP of politicising the incident, Shashi Panja, minister in the Bengal cabinet, said the two women were caught while stealing from the local market and a group of women tried to take law and order into their hands.

DON'T STEP INTO SEA, GUJ FISHERMEN WARNED

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

AFTER Saturday's spell of torrential rain across Gujarat, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a warning to fishermen along the state's coast against venturing out to sea for the next five days.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued red, orange, and yellow alerts for various Gujarat districts till 24 July. Rains pounded 145 talukas – mostly across Saurashtra-South Gujarat – between 6 am and 4 pm on Saturday. Twenty two talukas saw more than an inch of rain.

Navsari district, however, received the highest of 13 inches of rain. Heavy rain also lashed Junagadh district. The Girnar Hill in Junagadh received 14 inches of rain, following which runoff from the mountain flooded the city.

Waterlogging has led to cars floating and people climbing onto roofs in many locations. The flow of water in the Kalwa River has also surged.

Ravi Teja Wasam Shetty, Junagadh district police chief, appealed to the public to stay off roads and remain safe at home.

In Amreli district of Saurashtra region, heavy rainfall has led to water logging at the ST bus stand and Rajkot Road. Navsari, in south Gujarat, has received 13 inches of rain on Saturday. Heavy traffic bottleneck was also reported on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad (NH 48) in Navsari. A 16-year-old boy who travelled from Belimora with his father to give an exam was swept away in the flood-like situation in Navsari town.

Waterlogging has led to cars floating and people climbing onto roofs | EXPRESS

In North Gujarat, Patan and Banaskantha districts are badly-hit by rains. IMD has issued a 'red alert' for Valsad, Bhavnagar, Devbhoomi Dwarka, Daman, Dadra Nagar Haveli; 'orange alert' for Ahmedabad, Anand, Bharuch, Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Amreli, Jamnagar, Gir Somnath, Kutch; and 'yellow' alert for Surendranagar, Dahod, Junagadh, Rajkot, Botad, Vadodara, Surat, Navsari.

HP govt seeks ₹315 cr aid from Centre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE Himachal Pradesh Government has requested the Union government to release an amount of ₹315.80 crore under disaster fund at the earliest.

In a meeting with the eight member central team, which has come to the state to access the damage due to heavy rains causing flashfloods and landslides, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has sought different pattern for financial assistance to all hill states during natural calamities, considering their geographical conditions and high cost of construction. Around 5,480 incidents of landslides, 14 cloudbursts and 83 flash floods have occurred in the hill state so far during monsoon. Due to heavy rains and floods, power and water supply, besides damaged road projects and bridges, will take enough time to be restored permanently. In such a situation, the Centre will have to come forward to help Himachal Pradesh, said Sukhu.

Pak using Chinese drones to drop drugs in Punjab

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandiagrh

The hi-tech Chinese drones, which can remain airborne for long hours and fly at a high altitude, have modern artificial intelligence features. Usually, they take off from near Lahore, Kasur and Sheikhpura in neighboring Pakistan and drop drugs, arms and ammunition mainly in the border areas in the Amritsar sector of Punjab and return as they are operated by smugglers based in Pakistan.

The Border Security Force (BSF) has identified 200 dropping zones across the Intentional Border on the Indian side in Punjab.

This year, security agencies have shot down 26 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and have sighted 165 of them in the first six months of the year.

Sources said the drones are generally operated between 10 pm to 4 am, preferably during dark nights. They are flown at a height of 1,500-2,000 meters to avoid detection by security agencies.

When a drop is to be made, the drones are lowered to 700 meters.

An official said, "The drones are GPS-enabled and the coordinates are fed into them by the person operating them from across the border so that they drop the consignment of drugs, arms and ammunition at the accurate spot besides there is illuminating device is pasted on the consignment so that the smugglers in India can spot package after it is dropped, as they send only the coordinates to their counterparts in Pakistan."

Sources said the drones carry a payload of 5-7 kg which includes drugs and small weapons including AK-47s.

Out of the shot-down UAVs, many are China-made. A Chinese firm DJI is the manufacturer of these drones.

"The Matrice 300 is more reliable than the assembled drones, as this quadcopter with a weight of 6 kg, can carry payloads up to 2.7 kg and has a flight time of 55 minutes. It ensures precise drops at specified locations. It is equipped with high-definition cameras that are capable of live recording and taking pictures. Besides it can carry up to three payloads simultaneously," said an official.

Sources said that the operator of these drones sitting in the neighboring country can remotely delete all data of this device once it is shot down or seized.

Therefore, to track down their earlier flight path becomes difficult.

Last year on December 25 a quadcopter was shot down near the Rajatal border out post in Amritsar district.

The forensic analysis of the drone found that it flew in Fengxian district in Shanghai of China on June 11 last year and later for 28 times it was flown from September 24 to December 25 within Khanewal district of Punjab in Pakistan.

The BSF has earlier said a number of drones shot or recovered were made in China.

It is learnt that BSF has set up a forensic laboratory for drones in Delhi where it culls out data from the chips of the seized drones and studies its flight path and other scientific details.

Earlier this month, a drone carrying 6 kg of drugs which flew from Lahore crashed near Rasoolpura village near Lahore in Pakistan.

200 DROP ZONES AT BORDER

BSF says most of drones are made by a Chinese firm DJI. Its Matrice-300 version is more reliable than the assembled drones.

200 DROPPING ZONES ACROSS THE INTENTIONAL BORDER ON THE INDIAN SIDE IN PUNJAB.

The quadcopter weighs **6 kg**, can carry payloads of up to **2.7 kg** and has a flight time of **55 minutes**.

26 UAVs shot down in the first **6 months**

1) Vehicles buried under debris after a cloudburst at Rohru area in Shimla district on Saturday 2) A road covered in mudwater due to flash floods in Leh | PTI/ANI

RAINS, LANDSLIPS HALT BADRI YATRA

NARENDRA SETHI @ New Delhi

INCESSANT rains and cloudbursts led to massive damage to property and road infrastructure in various parts of Uttarakhand on Friday night. The Badrinath Yatra has been suspended due to frequent landslides in the area, officials said.

A State Disaster Response Force spokesperson at the headquarters in Dehradun said several vehicles were buried in the debris due to a cloudburst in Purola and Naugaon in Uttarkashi. SDRF personnel already located in areas like Chinyalisaur (Tehri lake, Uttarkashi), Ujli and Janki Chatti (Yamunotri) have also been stretched to Nagaon and Purola in Uttarkashi's interiors for relief operations.

"The SDRF is carrying out relief on a war-footing," SDRF Commandant Manikant Mishra told this newspaper on Saturday. "At Bangapani in Pithoragarh district, rain-dependent rivers are overflowing, washing away 150 metres of the road due to strong currents."

Ukrainian drone strikes Crimea munitions depot

Kyiv claims it destroyed an oil depot and Russian arms warehouses

KYIV

A Ukrainian drone hit an ammunition depot in central Crimea on Saturday, sparking an explosion, less than a week after a predawn strike on a key bridge linking the peninsula to Russia prompted Moscow to exit a landmark grain export deal and pound Ukraine's seaports with missiles.

Sergey Aksyonov, the Kremlin-appointed head of the territory, said in a Telegram post that there were no immediate reports of casualties but that authorities were evacuating civilians within a five-kilometre of the blast site.

The Ukrainian military confirmed it had launched the drone strike, claiming that it had destroyed an oil depot and Russian arms warehouses in the Krasnohvardiiske area, although without specifying what weapons were used.

A local news channel based in central Crimea on Saturday posted videos showing plumes of smoke looming above rooftops and fields near Oktyabrske, a small settlement next to an oil depot and a small military airport, as loud explosions rumbled in the background.

In one of the videos, a man's voice is heard saying that the smoke and blast noises appear to be coming from the direction of the airport.

Meanwhile, the Russian defence ministry announced that a group of Russian journalists came under artillery fire in the southern Zaporizhzhia region.

In an online statement, the ministry said that four correspondents for pro-Kremlin media were wounded, with one journalist from the state *RIA Novosti* agency later dying from his injuries.

The Kremlin-installed head of the occupied parts of the Zaporizhzhia region, Yevhen Balitsky, claimed in a Telegram post that the journalists were travelling in a civilian vehicle that was hit by shells.

The Ukrainian air force on Saturday morning said that it had overnight brought down 14 Russian drones, including five Iranian-made ones, over the country's southeast, where battles are raging.

In a regular social media update, the air force said that all Iranian-made Shahed exploding drones launched by Russian troops during the night were brought down, pointing to Ukraine's increasing success rate in neutralising them. *AP*

Local residents carry their belongings as they evacuate in the small town of Oktyabrskoye near Simferopol in Crimean Peninsula on Saturday | AFP

Rail traffic resumes in Crimea after attack

Rail traffic has resumed in Crimea after having been suspended earlier on Saturday following a Ukrainian attack on an ammunition depot, the pro-Russian authorities announced. "Rail traffic... has resumed" in the district where the attack took place, the Moscow-installed governor of Crimea Sergey Aksyonov announced in a message on Telegram.

EASING BUSINESS

Sri Lanka may accept Indian rupee for local transactions

COLOMBO

SRI Lanka is considering the possibility of allowing the usage of the Indian rupee for local transactions just like the dollar, euro and yen to facilitate Indian tourists and businessmen, Foreign Minister Ali Sabry said on Saturday.

"We have considered the possibility of using the Indian rupees like we accept the dollar, euro and yen," he said.

Allowing its direct use would prevent the need for multiple currency conversions for Indian tourists and businessmen.

On Friday, the two countries noted that the decision to designate INR as currency for trade settlements between the two countries has forged stronger and mutually-beneficial commercial linkages, and agreed to operationalise the Unified Payments Interface-based digital payments for further enhancing trade and transactions between businesses and common people.

The two countries signed the Network to Network Agreement between NIPL and Lanka Pay for UPI application acceptance in Sri Lanka after bilateral talks between Modi and Wickremesinghe. On an MoU signed with India on the development of Trincomalee as a regional hub for industry, energy and bilateral cooperation, Sabry saw no objections coming from China. "We are a non-aligned state, we have only signed an MoU to identify feasible projects through a joint committee. I don't think any country would object to such open and transparent dealings," Sabry said.

Sabry said both leaders agreed on the importance of port connectivity between the two countries. "We discussed ways which would be mutually beneficial to both countries. The tie-ups between not only the two governments but between the private sector were emphasised," Sabry said. *PTI*

Taliban asks Pakistan to pursue peace talks with TTP

ISLAMABAD

THE Afghan Taliban has asked the Pakistan government to initiate another round of negotiations with the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terror group, with a top leader in Kabul telling Islamabad that it should prefer peace over war, a media report said on Saturday. Pakistan's latest efforts aimed at seeking action against TTP by Kabul could not make headway, *The Express Tribune* newspaper reported.

Pakistan dispatched its special envoy to Kabul this week on a three-day trip to convey a clear message that Afghanistan's Taliban-led interim government will have to take decisive action against the TTP.

Ambassador Asad Durrani met with Afghanistan's Acting Prime Minister Maulvi Abdul Kabir, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi and other officials. But the Afghan Taliban told him after a series of meetings that Pakistan should pursue the path of peace instead of the use of force.

Official sources told the media that the Afghan Taliban leadership was told in clear terms that Pakistan's patience was wearing thin vis-a-vis the TTP.

With forecast of 40°C, Greece braces for longest heatwave

ATHENS

GREECE on Saturday was bracing for its longest heatwave on record as weekend temperatures were forecast to soar above 40°C, while a record-breaking heatwave stretching across the southern United States was expected to expand in the coming days.

Already 11 days into its heatwave, Greece's national weather institute warned reprieve was still days away, setting this up to be the longest hot spell the country has ever seen. "According to the data, we will probably go through 16-17 days of a heatwave, which has never happened before in our country," Kostas Lagouvardos, the director of research at the National Observatory, said.

The previous heatwave record in Greece was set in 1987, when scorching temperatures of over 39°C lasted 11 days. Across the southern US, about 80 million Americans will swelter in temperatures of 41°C and above this weekend, the National Weather Service (NWS) said.

The country's worst heat of up to 46°C is forecast for Phoenix, Arizona, which has seen a record-breaking three weeks in a row of highs above 43°C. Meanwhile, more than 2,000 people were ferried to safety from beaches on the Greek island of Rhodes on Saturday, where a wildfire has been raging out of control for five days.

Three coastguard boats were leading more than 30 private vessels in the emergency evacuation, while a Greek navy boat was heading to the area.

According to the Greek coastguard, people were being picked up from Kiotari and Lardos beaches. The coastguard said over 1,500 people have already been evacuated to a safe beach. Deputy Fire Chief Yannis Artapoios said the blaze on Rhodes, was the most difficult the Fire Department forces there have faced.

Five helicopters and 173 firefighters were operating in the area. *AFP*

Children play with the water on a fountain during a heat wave at Stavros Niarchos foundation Cultural Centre in Athens, Greece on Friday | AP

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Madurai Division

Tender Notice No: U-TRD-OT-23-24-IX-1 Dated 20.07.2023

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, Southern Railway, Madurai - 625016 invites E-Tenders from reputed contractors for the under mentioned works.

Sl. No.	Tender No. & Name of the Work	Approximate Tender Value ₹	Bid Security ₹	Completion Period
*1.	U-TRD-OT-23-24-IX-1: Madurai Division-Provision of Auxiliary Transformer and OHE modification works in connection with the Interlocking of 7 LC's (LC No. 458 (VPT-SCT), LC No. 407, 486, 505, 519 (TPJ-RMM) & LC No. 261, 270 (TPJ-DG)	65,25,932.66	1,30,500.00	6 Months

Cost of Tender form : NIL

*Eligibility criteria is applicable for this tender.

Tender Closing Date & Time: 11.08.2023 & 15:00 hours

For details interested persons may kindly be log on to website at http://www.ireps.gov.in. For eligibility criteria, other details, terms and conditions, the tenderers are advised to refer to the documents uploaded. All Addendum/Corrigendum, Time extension, Clarifications, etc. will be uploaded in the website only and will not be published separately in Newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No: SA-E3-2023-24-W1-4

Divisional Railway Manager/Electrical/Salem Division, Salem -5 for and on behalf of the President of India Invites E- Tender for the under mentioned works. Online bids only will be accepted. For detailed NIT, qualification criteria, bidding document, tender submission etc. can be viewed/downloaded from website portal www.ireps.gov.in.

E-Tender Notice No, Date and Name of Work	Details
1) SA-E3-2023-24-W1 Dt 19.07.2023 Salem Div: Replacement of Staff Quarters type II -12 Units and IV-15 units at Erode Jn- Electrical arrangements.	Approx. cost - Rs. 23,79,000.00/- EMD - Rs. 47600.00/- Completion Period – 6 Months
2) SA-E3-2023-24-W2 Dt 19.07.2023 Salem Div. - Improvements to Goods Shed over Salem Division- Electrical arrangements.	Approx. cost - Rs. 10,24,791/- EMD - Rs. 20,500.00/- Completion Period – 6 Months
3) SA-E3-2023-24-W3 Dt 19.07.2023 SA Division- Provision of redundancy by using high availability single section digital axle counter (55 section)* - 33 Nos- Provision of Huts-Electrical arrangements	Approx. cost - Rs.40,46,593 /- EMD - Rs.80,900 /- Completion Period – 6 Months
4) SA-E3-2023-24-W4 Dt 19.07.2023 Southern Railway: Modification of existing overhead power line crossing by underground cable in Southern railway at MAS & SA division -total- 33 kv-2 No's for SA) -Balance Work-Electrical arrangements	Approx. cost - Rs.21,52,168/- EMD - Rs.43,100 /- Completion Period – 90 Days

For all the works Closing Time & Date 15.00hrs. on 18.08.2023
For all the works Bids Opening Time & Date 15.00hrs. on 18.08.2023

All Addendum/Corrigendum, Time extension, Clarifications, etc. will be uploaded in the website portal www.ireps.gov.in. only and will not be published separately in Newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailways

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client has entered into an Agreement to purchase the immovable property described in the Schedule hereunder from its owner **Mrs.Devika Rao** also known as **Devika Chittiappa Rao,** wife of Late J.R.Rao also known as Jayarama Raghunatha Rao, residing at No.57/59, Viviani Road, Richards Town, Bangalore 560 005.

Any person/s having or claiming any manner of right, title, lien and interest in respect of the Schedule property may intimate the same in writing to the undersigned with documentary evidence in support thereof within **seven days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the claims of all such person/s shall be deemed to have been waived or abandoned and my client will proceed with the conveyance as if no valid claims are subsisting against the Schedule property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of land together with the dwelling house, outbuildings and other constructions standing thereon bearing **Municipal Corporation Nos.29 and 30, PID Nos.90-35-29 & 90-35-30,** situated at **Viviani Road,** Richards Town, Corporation New Ward No.60, Old Ward No.90, Bangalore and bounded on the :

EAST BY : Private Property; (Earlier forming portions of Municipal Nos.29 & 30);
WEST BY : Private Property; (Earlier described as property belonging to Mrs.Pushpavathi Rajulu and forming portions of Municipal Nos.29 & 30);
NORTH BY : Conservancy Lane;
SOUTH BY : Viviani Road;

and measuring on the :
EAST : 121 feet;
WEST : 120 feet;
NORTH : 83 feet 9 inches;
SOUTH : 83 feet 9 inches;
Totally measuring in all 10,050 Square feet or thereabouts.
All the four boundary walls belong to the Schedule Property.

NISSAR AHMED, Advocate
No.10, Millers Road, Benson Town, Bangalore : 560 046.
Dated : 23.07.2023 Place : Bangalore

QuoteExpress
WITHOUT HARD WORK, NOTHING GROWS BUT WEEDS › GORDON B HINCKLEY

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
FOR SALE

FOR SALE
HMT FN1V MILLING (MC), TOOL & CUTTER OLD TYPE (MC), IFFCO DRILLING 1" (MC), HEAVY DUTY WELDING, OIL COLD (MC).
CONTACT
9110878442

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client is intending to purchase the Property bearing present BBMP Khatha Nos.48, 49, 50 and 51, PID Nos.28-99-48, 28-99-49, 28-99-50 and 28-99-51, Old Nos.36, 36/1, 36/2 and 36/3, Earlier No.19, situated at Srinivasa Mandiram Road, Old Ward No.28, New Ward No.109, Bangalore, described as the Schedule Property from **Smt. SUBHADRA,** aged about 76 years, wife of late. B.G.Achutha Rao, residing at No.46, Old No.5, Bull Temple Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004.

The Public is hereby informed that if anybody have any objections for the above said Sale, they may file their objections along with the related documents to the under signed within **One Week** from the date of this publication. If no objections have been received within the above time, my Client will proceed to Purchase the Schedule Property as nobody have any objections.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing present BBMP Khatha **Nos.48, 49, 50 and 51,** PID Nos.28-99-48, 28-99-49, 28-99-50 and 28-99-51, Old Nos.36, 36/1, 36/2 and 36/3, Earlier No.19, situated at **Srinivasa Mandiram Road,** Old Ward No.28, New Ward No.109, Bangalore, measuring :

East to West : 24 feet 6 inches
North to South : 30 feet
In total measuring 735 square feet.
Bounded on the
East by : Property of A.Nanjappa,
West by : Srinivasa Mandiram Road.
North by : Venus Textiles
South by : Mukkada Setty Ramanna Lane

MAKAM NAGARAJA GUPTA
MAKAM LAW ASSOCIATES
Advocates
No. 429-430, Second Floor
Alankar Pearl Plaza, K.G. Road
Bangalore-560 009

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

General public are hereby informed that, my client **Rohini** has lost the original Sale deed executed by **Smt. Nirmala Kanwar** in favor of **Smt. Snehlata Bhansali** dated 20.03.1984 vide **Document No.5424/1983-84, Volume No.3750, at pages 1-5, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore North Taluk,** in respect of Vacant Sites bearing Nos.52 & 53, formed out of Sy No.101/2 of Cholanayakanahalli, situated at Cholanayakanahalli, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring **East to West 40 Feet or 12.19 mtrs** and **North to South 60 feet or 18.28 mtrs, totally measuring 222.83 square mtrs** and bounded on, East by: Site Nos.38 & 39, West by: Road, North by: Site No.54, South by: Site No.51, AND, the original Sale deed executed by **Smt. Snehalatha Bhansali** in favor of **Sri. Vaidyanathan** dated 24.04.1986 vide **Document No.493/1986-87, Volume No.3907, at pages 39-45, registered in the office of Sub-Registrar, Bangalore North Taluk,** in respect of Site No.52, lying in the layout formed in Converted Sy No.101/2, of Cholanayakanahlli, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring **East to West 40 Feet** and **North to South 30 feet** and bounded on, East by: Premises No. 39, West by: Road, North by: Site & House, bearing No.53, South by: Site No.51, while travelling in an Auto to my Advocates Office in Gandhinagar. If anybody found the said document please contact this No.9141652289.

K.B.Thippeswamy, Advocate,
Room No.LS-25, First Floor, No.22, S.S.B. Mutt Complex, Opp. Sharadha Lodge, Tank Bund Road, Blr-09. Date: 23.07.2023

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (through http://ireps.gov.in) PUB/0818

CE/C-II/SC, CE/C-III/SC, CE/C-V/SC & CE/C/Plg.&Sy./SC Construction Organisation, S.C.Railway, Secunderabad, respectively, invites e-tender on behalf of the President of India for the following works:

S.No:- 1, **NIT No:-** PSS-01-CAO-C-SC-2023 Date: 07/07/2023, **Name of work:-** Providing Project Supervision Services (PSS) at various construction sites/sections in Dy. CPM/WCSP/SC unit under the jurisdiction of CE/C-II/SC in S.C Railway, **Details:- Estimated Cost: Rs 1,27,41,837.92, EMD: Rs. 2,13,700.00, Completion Period: 18 (Eighteen)Months. Date of Opening: 17/08/2023 15:00hrs.**

S.No:- 2, **NIT No:-** 32-CAO-C-SC-2023 **Date:** 17/07/2023, **Name of work:-** SCR Construction organisation - KAZIPET-Vijayawada section - Balance works of RUB at LC No.106 such as Launching of precast RCC boxes of size 1x5.0mx4.0m for sub way in lieu of LC No.106 at Km 489/13-15 by providing RH girder duly excavation hard rock to the required level under traffic conditions etc. between Khammam and Pandillapalli stations., **Details:- Estimated Cost: Rs 1,57,61,456.08 EMD: 2,28,800.00 Completion Period: 06 (Six)Months. Date of Opening: 10/08/2023 15:00hrs.**

S.No:- 3, **NIT No:-** PMS-04-CAO-C-SC-2023 Date: 20/07/2023, **Name of work:-** SCR Construction: Appointment of Authority Engineer for providing Project Management Services for Major Upgradation of Railway Station at Aurangabad in Nanded Division of South Central Railway, **Details:- Estimated Cost: Rs 3,14,71,430.00 EMD: Rs. 3,07,400.00 Completion Period: 30 (Thirty)Months. Date of Opening: 24/08/2023 15:00hrs.**

S.No:- 4, **NIT No:-** PMS-05-CAO-C-SC-2023 Date:20/07/2023, **Name of work:-** Appointment of Authority Engineer for providing Project Management Services for Major Upgradation of Railway Station at Jalna in Nanded Division of South Central Railway, **Details:- Estimated Cost: Rs 2,30,80,370.00 EMD: Rs. 2,65,400.00 Completion Period: 30 (Thirty)Months. Date of Opening: 24/08/2023 15:00hrs.**

S.No:- 5, **NIT No:-** GC-01-CAO-C-SC- 2023 Date: 20/07/2023, **Name of work:-** Appointment of General Consultancy Services (GC) for Construction organization of S.C.Railway, **Details:- Estimated Cost: Rs 18,19,68,871.32 EMD: Rs.10,59,900.00 Completion Period: 36 (Thirty Six)Months Date of Opening: 05/09/2023 15:00hrs.**

S.No:- 6, **NIT No:-** Corrigendum No. 2&3 Dated:29/06/2023 & 03/07/2023 to Tender Notice No.EPC-06-CAO-C-SC-2023 **Intended bidders may please note the Corrigendum(s).**

i) For bid document and other details, please login to website https://ireps.gov.in.

ii) Tenderers can submit their offers online during tender submission period which is the Fifteen days period prior to closing of tender.

iii) Tenderers should watch for any corrigenda (issued online only) up to the date of commencement of the tender submission period.

Chief Administrative Officer/Const/ A1143 Secunderabad

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at http://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

E.Tender Number: 91/23/5572

For and on behalf of President of India. Senior Divisional Materials Manager (Stores Branch) Southern Railway, Palghat Division invites attention to this Office E-Tender for the supply of under mentioned Stores.

Description of Stores: Design, manufacturing, supply, installation, testing, commissioning and proving of Hydraulic re-railing equipment at SPART/SRR (Shoranur). It includes all the concomitant accessories/equipments as detailed in Annexure-A and technical specification No. COFMOW/IR/HRE 2015, Ver-3. CAMC conditions detailed in Annexure-B

Quantity: 1 Set

Due date: 07/08/2023

Tender closing and opening date and time: 07-August-2023 14:30 hrs

For further details, please refer to web portal **www.ireps.gov.in>E-Tender>stores>View Tenders.**

Please note that only online quotations are accepted and offers are to be digitally signed.

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SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
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Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender Notice No. 29/2023 Dt. 21.07.2023. PUB/0805

Supply Of Stores Items
E-Procurement Tender Notice:-

The Following Tenders Have Been Floated Online. Tenderers Are Requested To Visit The Website **www.ireps.gov.in** and Submit Their Offers Online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD May Be Seen In Website. Offers Submitted Manually Will Not Be Accepted. Offers By Post Will Not Be Entertained. Tender Closing Time Is 14.30 Hrs Of The Due Date Of The Tender. "For All Indigenous Offers, EMD Will Be Accepted Only Via Online System As Available On **www.ireps.gov.in.**"

Tender No.	Brief Description
33.23.1389A	Yaw Damper bracket
30.23.3448A	Stainless steel letter bin
62.23.1198A	Steel pipe (Seamless) 32 mm nominal
33.23.1549	N-2 board to FTRRIPL
91.23.1125	Aluminium Chequered sheet of size: 2.023x813
60.23.6261	Procurement of Hydraulic drive motor
45.23.5011	25 KW brush less alternator
60.22.5662C	Pinion shaft OEM:PL Part No. 64.02.2105
60.22.5353	Set of Tamping Tools TCTT
33.23.1137	Wheel set earthling equipment
33.23.1145	Brake bean for LHB
29.23.1298	Printed Circuit Board Type PPB
38.23.1215	Wear Plate for yoke pin
33.23.5008	Set of brake callipers
29.23.1279	Cab activating Key switch
31.23.1662	Non-Asbestos based "K" type
29.23.1087A	Aluminium impeller for centrifugal
25.23.3459	Pantograph type AM 12
29.23.1399	Axle Box Bearing CRU-150
38.23.2293	OH Kit for Distributer Valve
30.23.3628B	Non-Asbestos based "K" type high
33.23.1424	Secondary Vertical Damper for LHB

Note:-Due dates of Tender Opening:

SL.No.01 on dt. 26.07.2023. SL.No. 02 & 03 on dt.07.08.2023. SL.No.04 on dt.08.08.2023. SL.No.05 & 06 on dt. 09.08.2023. SL.No.07 to 09 on dt.10.08.2023. SL.No.10 to 12 on dt.14.08.2023. SL.No.13 & 14 on dt.16.08.2023. SL.No.15 & 16 on dt.17.08.2023. SL.No.17 to 19 on dt.18 08.2023. SL.No.20 to 22 on dt.21.08.2023.

CORRIGENDUM

Tender Notice No. 24/2023 dt. 16.06.2023. Tender No 56.23.5161B due on 18.07.2023 Brief. Desc. Supply installation & commissioning of SMPS based. May be read as due on 27.07.2023 instead of existing. Beside Above Mentioned Tenders There Are Other Tenders Having Value Below Rs.25 Lakhs. For Details, Please Visit Railway Website Above

Principal Chief Materials Manager/ Secunderabad.

CORREGENDUM TO TENDER NOTICE No.C/SG/C/36/5/385 PUB/0806

For and on Behalf of President of India, Deputy Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (Projects) SC Railway. Secunderabad issues CORREGENDUM TO TENDER NOTICE No.C/SG/C/36/5/385

CORREGENDUM No.3 C/SG/C/36/5/385 dt: 20.07.2023

Tender value to be read as **Rs.77,89,57,843.73** instead of **Rs. 75,55,43,850.88** and accordingly Earnest money deposit as **Rs. 38,94,800.00** instead of **Rs. 37,77,800.00.**

Please visit Indian Government tender Portal Website **www.ireps.gov.in** for all particulars including Full Description of the work, Corrigendum, tender conditions, eligibility criteria and details, downloading of tender document of the above works.

Deputy Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer, (Projects), Secunderabad

TENDER NOTICE No.C/SG/ C/36/5/386 Dt: 19.07.2023 PUB/0807

For and on Behalf of President of India, Deputy Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (Projects) S.C. Railway. Secunderabad invites E-tenders (Open) for the following work upto 15:00 on 30/08/2023

Description of work:- Comprehensive Telecommunication works for provision of Intermediate Block Signalling system in Dharmavaram-Chigicherla, Chigicherla Zangalapalli and Kalluru - Garladinne sections of Guntakal Division in South Central Railway., **Tender No:-** C/SG /C/36/5/386, **Approximate value Rs.:-** 142190347.22, **Earnest Money Deposit Rs.:-** 711000.00, **Period of completion:-** 390 Days.

NOTE: Added / Deleted items may please be seen from the website.

Please visit Indian Government tender Portal Website **www.ireps.gov.in** for all particulars including Full Description of the work, tender conditions, eligibility criteria and details, downloading of tender document of the above works.

Deputy Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer, (Projects), Secunderabad

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client intends to purchase the Schedule Property from its owner **Smt.Jayasree V.,** W/o.Sri.Jagadesh Babu V, Residing at No.27, I-Floor, Kavyasree Nilaya',4th Cross, Sector-B, Ramaiah Reddy Colony, Basavanagar, **BANGALORE - 560 037.** Having acquired the same by way of Sale Deed dated 17.11.2018.

If anyone having Claim, right over the **SCHEDULE PROPERTY** may intimate the same to the undersigned within 07 Days failing which it will be deemed that nobody else has claim over the property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing HASB **No.345/B [old No:345]** constructed on **Site No.10,** having its PID NO:83-81-345/B, situated at 7TH Main, Garakamantyhana Palya, Sir.C.V.Raman Nagar, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore, BMP Ward No.18, Along with a dwelling duplex house constructed twenty years back ground floor consists of two bed room and in the first floor two bed room house with electricity and water connections. Which now comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP **Ward No:58/Hosathippasandra** measuring East to West 32 feet North to South 39 in all measuring **1248 Sq feet.**

AND BOUNDED ON:
East by : 20 Ft Wide Road
West by : Site No.11 Private Property
North by : 20 Ft Wide Road
South by : Site No.9

B.B.SUDHIR, ADVOCATE.
No:334, 09th Main, 14th Cross, Indiranagar, BANGALORE-560038
Mob:98450 22593

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the **SCHEDULE PROPERTY** from its absolute owner **Smt.Rama Devi Aravind,** W/o Sri.P.S.Aravind, Aged about 56 Years, Residing at 606, Monticello Lane, Kenneth Square, PA 19348, United States Of America.

Any person/s, companies, firms, banks/financial institutions having any objections with respect to the intended sale of the SCHEDULE PROPERTY, such person/s, companies, firms, banks/financial institutions are hereby called upon to submit their objections to the under signed in writing with documentary proof within **SEVEN DAYS** from the date of publication of this notice, claims thereafter shall not be received and it shall be construed that there are no claims/third party interest in respect of the SCHEDULE PROPERTY and that my client shall go ahead with the intended purchase.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Site numbers II-87 and 87A of Hosahalli Extension, formed in Sy Nos.412,415,443,444,445,446 and 467 of Kempapura Agrahara, Bangalore, formed by the B.M.L.A.H.B.C.S Ltd., and approved by the City Improvement Trust Board (Now called as Bangalore Development Authority), Bangalore, now situated at 11th Main Road, Binny Mill Layout, 2nd Stage, Ward No 125, Marenahalli, bearing BBMP Khatha No.35-12 1-87, with all the rights, privileges, easementary rights and appurtenances there to and both the sites together measuring East - West 50 feet and North- South 60 feet and bounded on the East by: Property No.88, West by: Private Property, North by: Road, South by : Private Property,

KEMPEGOWDA .N, Advocate
ACC Associates
No. 32/1, 'Jothi Darshan', Sanjeevappa Lane, 26h Cross, Cubbonpete Main Road, Bangalore-560002. Mobile:944882 1136
E-mail: kempegowdankempegowda@gmail.com
Bengaluru, Dated: 21.07.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby notified that my client Sri Suresh .V has negotiated to purchase the property, described in the Schedule hereunder, from its present owners Sri Manjunath .C and Smt. Malathi .V.

If any other person or persons or financial institution or Bank has any claim or objections over the schedule property or any person or persons claim any right, title or interest, over the schedule property, the same may be lodged with the undersigned within SEVEN days from today, along with relevant claim documents, failing which, it will be presumed that the schedule property is free from any such claim and my client would proceed to purchase the Schedule Property and any claim received thereafter will not bind my client and would not be considered by my clients. The public are hereby cautioned not to deal or transact with the said property since the same is offered to be sold to my client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Property being a Vacant BDA Site bearing No. 409, BBMP Khatha Sl. No. 409/409/409, Ward No. 130, situated at Jnanabharathi (Valagerahalli), 1st Block, Bangalore admeasuring East to West: 9.14 Meters and North to South: 6.10 Meters totally measuring 55.75 square Meters, coming under the jurisdiction of BBMP and bounded on the

East by : Road
West by : Site No. 490
North by : Site No. 410
South by : Site No. 408

Aishwarya P Kumar, Advocate
A-34, V. K. Residency, Dr. Shivaram Karanth Road, Chikkallasandra, Bangalore – 61 Phone No. 9620301936
Bangalore Dated: 20/07/2023

Tender Notice No: 08/WWS/ RYPS/2023-24, Dt. 21.07.2023 PUB/0810

On behalf of the President of India, The Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/RYPS, South Central Railway, Wagon Workshop, Guntupalli – 521 241 invites e – tender.

Tender Notice No.:- 08/WWS/ RYPS/2023-24, Dt. 21.07.2023

Tender No:- GR/M/200/Bogie/08/ 2023-24

Description:- "Cleaning, Stripping, Repairs & Overhauling of CASNUB bogies and its components" in the bogie shop for the period of 24 months

Quantity:- 1. Cleaning & Stripping of CASNUB Bogies – Qty- 28080 Bogies, **2.** Heavy Repair of CASNUB Bogies–Qty- 3420 Bogies, **3.** Cleaning & Dip painting of CASNUB Bogie spring sets – Qty- 28080 Bogie sets

Period of Completion:- 24 Months

Tender Value:- ₹ 3,40,09,792.95 (Rupees Three Crores Forty lakhs Nine thousands Seven Hundred Ninety Two and Paise Ninety Five only)

Earnest Money to be deposited:- ₹. 3,20,100/- (Rupees Three Lakh Twenty thousand and One Hundred only)

Cost of Tender document:- Free of Cost

Offer Validity:- 60 Days from the date of opening.

Type of tender:- Works Tender governed by IRGCC-2022.

System of Tendering:- Open Tender – Single Packet.

Similar nature of work:- Applicable.

Time & Date of Bid closing:- 15:00 Hrs. of Dt. 16.08.2023.

Time & Date of Bid opening:- 15:15 Hrs. of Dt. 16.08.2023.

Tender document and Corrigendum:- Visit website http://www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer/ A1124 WWS/GUNTUPALLI

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at http://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

43% jump in June quarter net profit at ₹288 crore private sector lender RBL Bank reported on Saturday, helped by core income growth

ICICI net profit up 40% at ₹9,648 cr

Growth driven by higher interest income and loan growth; NII rises 38% to ₹18,227 crore

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Mumbai

BEATING the analyst's expectations, ICICI Bank, country's second-largest private lender, on Saturday reported 40% rise in net profit to ₹9,648 crore in the quarter ended June this year, driven by higher interest income and loan growth. The bank had posted ₹6,905 crore net profit in the same quarter the previous year.

Net interest income, the difference between interest earned and paid, rose 38% to ₹18,227 crore in during the first quarter from ₹13,210 crore in the corresponding quarter of previous year.

Net interest margin (NIM) expanded to 4.78% from 4.01 percent a year earlier, but was lower than 4.9% reported in the January-March quarter. The bank expects margins to moderate in coming quarters.

"We do expect the repricing of deposits to continue over the next couple of quarter. As we have been guiding in the previous calls, the overall decline in NIMs was very much in line with our expectations," Sandeep Batra, Executive Director, ICICI Bank said in a conference call.

For the 2023-24 year as a whole, he expects NIM to be similar to last year. The bank's average NIM for FY23 was at 4.5%. Fee income grew by 14.1% during the quarter to ₹4,843 crore. Asset quality for the lender improved with gross non-performing asset ratio improving to 2.76 percent, lower by 5 basis points sequentially. Net NPA ratio remained flat at 0.48%.

Provisions (excluding provision for tax) were ₹1,292 crore during the first quarter compared to ₹1,144 crore in the same quarter last year.

The net addition to gross NPAs, excluding write-offs and sale, were ₹1,807 crore in Q1-2024 compared to ₹14 crore in Q4, 2023. The gross NPA additions were ₹5,318 crore in Q1-2024 compared to ₹4,297 crore in Q4,2023.

Recoveries and upgrades of NPAs, excluding write-offs and sale, were ₹3,511 crore in Q1-2024 compared to Rs 4,283 crore in Q4-2023. The bank has written off gross NPAs amounting to ₹1,169 crore in Q1-2024. Total advances increased by 18.1% year-on-year and 3.7% sequentially to ₹10,57,583 crore at June 30, 2023. Net domestic advances grew 20.6% YoY and 4% sequentially on June 30, 2023.

A QUARTER OF ALL-ROUND GROWTH

₹18,227 CR
Bank's net interest income in first quarter after **38%** growth

₹5,183 CR
Non-interest income in the first quarter with **12%** rise

₹4,843 CR
Fee income in the first quarter after **14.1%** rise

18.1% Growth in total advances during the first quarter

25.8% Growth in term deposits during the quarter

Yes Bank profit up 10% at ₹343 crore on healthy growth in non-interest income

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Mumbai

PRIVATE lender Yes Bank on Saturday reported a 10% rise in net profit to ₹343 crore in the quarter ended June this year compared to ₹311 crore in the same quarter previous year, mainly supported by healthy growth in non-interest income.

The company's non-interest income soared 54% to ₹1,141 crore during the quarter, while net interest income rose 8.1% to ₹2,000 crore during the quarter.

Surge in provisions slowed the pace of growth in profit as the lender's provisions and contingencies, net of recoveries made against loan accounts written off as bad, more than doubled to ₹360 crore from ₹175 crore a year earlier.

Lender's asset quality showed substantial improvement as gross non-performing assets (NPAs) declined to 2% of gross advances at the end of the June quarter from 13.4% a year ago. Similarly, net NPAs or bad loans declined to 1% against 4.2% in the year-ago period.

"With the focus of the Bank now firmly aligned towards improving the profitability of the franchise, over the coming quarters, we will continue to work on levers which further accelerate this momentum such as improvement in NIMs (Net Interest Margin) and CASA (Current Account Saving Account) Ratio, reducing the drag from legacy PSL requirements, further cross-sell and product penetration into our fast-expanding customer base, while continuing to maintain strict controls over costs," said Prashant Kumar, managing director & chief executive officer, Yes Bank.

Advances grew 10%, of which retail advances jumped 31.3% and the SME book rose 24.1% and the mid-corporate book 28.9%, while the large corporate book contracted by 29%, taking the new sanctions and disbursement to ₹24,730 crore. The capital adequacy ratio of the bank also improved to 18.2% compared to 17.5% at the end of June 2022.

Will see free cash flow by year end: Paytm CEO

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

FINTECH firm One97 Communications, which operates under the Paytm brand, expects to generate free cash flow by the end of this year, a top company official said on Saturday.

Paytm founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma, in an earnings call, said that growth for the company in the June 2023 quarter came on account of expansion in payments, financial services and commerce business.

"We are on our committed guidelines of becoming free cash flow positive by the year-end," Sharma said.

Paytm has reported a narrowing of loss to ₹358.4 crore in the first quarter ended June 30, 2023.

Kotak Bank profit up 67% on higher interest income

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Mumbai

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK, country's fourth largest private lender, on Saturday announced a 67% rise in net profit to ₹3,452 crore for the quarter ended June, helped by higher interest income.

Net interest income, the difference between interest earned and interest paid, surged 33 percent ₹6,234 crore during the quarter compared to ₹4,697 crore in the same quarter previous year. Its net interest margin grew to 5.57% from 4.92% for the same quarter last year. Fees and services income rose 20% to ₹1,827 crore and CASA ratio stood at 49%.

Kotak Mahindra Bank's asset quality was largely stable during the quarter.

Its gross non-performing assets (NPA) ratio was at 1.77% at the end of June, versus 1.78% at the end of March, while the net NPA ratio was 0.40%, compared with 0.37% at the end of the prior three months.

Bank's advances increased 19% to ₹3.37 lakh crore as at June 30, 2023 from ₹282,665 crore as at June 30, 2022. Term deposits of the bank jumped by 48.5% year-on-year to ₹1.96 lakh crore. Unsecured retail advances, including retail micro finance, climbed 10.7% of advances from 7.9%.

The capital adequacy ratio under Basel III stood at 23.3%, of which and CET 1 ratio at 22.3% and the consolidated capital and reserves and surplus stood at ₹1,16,500 crore from ₹1,00,078 crore in June 2022.

Consolidated customer assets which comprises advances and credit substitutes grew 19 per cent from ₹3,39,606 crore in June 2022 to ₹4,05,775 crore in June 2023.

NEWSCOPE

WEATHER MAYHEM: BRACE FOR HOTTER DAYS AHEAD

GURBIR SINGH

AFTER a late start, the rains are lashing Mumbai and its surroundings. The collateral damage is heartrending. The Rumale family, stuck in a halted local train near the suburb of Kalyan, decided to make a dash of it by walking down the track to the next station. It was a decision they will rue all their lives. Grandpa, who was carrying mother Yogita Rumale's infant baby, lost control in the rain and the baby slipped off and disappeared into a swollen nullah below.

Not far away from the rail track tragedy, at Khalapur, Raigad district, a cloudburst of 400mm rain on Wednesday night brought the hill down on Irshalwadi, a small tribal hamlet, wiping out everyone who lived there.

Simultaneously and ironically, it is record-breaking heat that is killing thousands in the US, Europe and Asia. Wildfires in summer and off-season cloudbursts have become common from Canada to Australia; but for the first time extreme weather is making the news ahead of the Ukraine war.

About a third of US' population is under heat wave alerts. Several cities, including Phoenix, and El Paso, Texas have broken records. In California's Death Valley, temperatures have been hovering around a killer 54 deg C. The waters off Florida in recent weeks are too hot to swim. Temperatures are threatening the coral reefs off the coast.

Europe is frying second year in a row with the Mediterranean seeming like an extended Sahara. Greece has shut the Acropolis to tourists during day hours fearing dehydration casualties. Spain's meteorological service warned of temperatures of between 42 and 45 deg C. Japan has hit a 150-year all-time high.

According to one study, the heat wave last year claimed 61,000 lives in Europe, perhaps more than the number who have been killed in the Ukraine war so far. This year and the next promise to be even worse. Can we make sense of all this?

Climate systems go berserk

Beyond doubt, climate change – only a debating point at UN conferences some years ago – has come home to bite the most skeptical. Extreme heat events have increased sixfold since the 1980s, according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Increasing surface temperature from global warming has heated up the oceans in the Pacific; and this heat has been drifting inland – known as the El Nino effect – to cause wildfires and dust storms.

Heatwaves are also becoming longer and more intense in what were earlier cooler areas of the Northern Hemisphere, like Europe and the UK. This is happening because of the 'heat dome' phenomenon – where warm air moves up trapping and creating a high pressure zone of hot air, and causing temperatures to soar over large areas.

SOURAV ROY

One theory suggests higher temperatures in the Arctic - which has warmed more than four times faster than the global average - are causing strong winds called the jet stream to slow down thereby increasing the likelihood of heat domes.

Global warming, triggered by emission of green house gases, is also behind the increasing cyclonic storms and merciless flooding we have been seeing like in Pakistan last year. The melting of the Artic icecaps is pushing millions of tonnes of water into the oceans raising their level and threatening coastal communities.

Scientists call it the 'dipole' effect. In the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean, the phenomenon occurs as warmer waters move westwards near the coast of Africa and the cooler waters drift to the East towards Australia. It has been occurring over the last decade due to ice melts and rising temperatures, which has been pushing more warm water towards the African coast.

Hotter days ahead

The Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a UN collective monitoring climate change, for the first time in 2021, underlined it was destructive human activity that had led to global warming and perhaps irretrievable climate change. The report sent shock waves around the world and has led to many formal and informal targets limiting the use of fossil fuels and cutting down on greenhouse emissions. The object is to slow global warming to 1.5 deg C since preindustrial times if the Earth is to survive.

The report also predicted if the trends in climate change were not reversed, as many as 12 coastal Indian cities may not exist by the end of this century.

Reversing climate damage and moving to cleaner fuels is not moving fast enough. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has predicted "global temperatures are likely to surge to record levels in the next five years, fueled by heat-trapping greenhouse gases and a naturally occurring El Niño event."

The WMO also said in its May 2023 report that the annual mean global near-surface temperature for each year between 2023 and 2027 will be between 1.1°C and 1.8°C higher than the 1850-1900 average; and there is a 98% chance of at least one in the next five years beating the temperature record set in 2016, when there was an exceptionally strong El Niño. Clearly things are likely to get hotter, before they begin to cool.

EXPRESS READ

Fake Fortune brand: Adani co files complaint

NEW DELHI: Edible oil major Adani Wilmar on Saturday said it has lodged a police complaint against a B2B platform for allegedly distributing counterfeit products in the name of its 'Fortune' brand. As part of a routine market survey, Adani Wilmar representatives discovered the malpractice, the company said in a statement. *PTI*

AU Small Finance Bank profit up 44% to ₹387 cr

NEW DELHI: AU Small Finance Bank on Saturday reported a 44% rise in net profit at ₹387 crore in the June quarter helped by growth in interest income. The Jaipur-based lender had posted a net profit of ₹268 crore in the year-ago period. Total income in the first quarter of the current fiscal rose to Rs 2,773 crore from Rs 1,979 crore in the same period a year ago. *ENS*

Darwin Platform group to acquire Lavasa Corp

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE insolvency resolution process of Lavasa Corporation is nearing its conclusion after the National Company law Tribunal (NCLT) approved the ₹1,814 crore resolution plan submitted by Darwin Platform Infrastructure (DPIL).

Lavasa Corporation, which has been credited with building India's first smart city on Lavasa Hills in Pune, was declared bankrupt in August 2018, when a vendor -- Raj Infrastructure Private Ltd – filed an insolvency application and the same was admitted by NCLT.

The resolution plan provides for an investment of ₹1,814 crore including a resolution amount of ₹1,601 crore to be paid to different creditors over a period of nine years.

As per the resolution plan, ₹1,152 crore will be paid to secured financial creditors, who had admitted claims of ₹5,533 crore. Unsecured financial creditors would receive ₹442 crore against their claims of ₹459 crore.

A sum of ₹8.50 crore has been set aside for operational creditors, who had admitted claims of ₹35 crore.

The resolution plan has made a provision of ₹1.97 crore towards dues claimed by government and statutory authorities. The amount is 20.5% of the amounts claimed by government and statutory authorities and will result in the same proportion of recovery as is being made by the financial creditors.

Business & Beyond

Paradip Port Authority signs Memorandum of Understanding with NBCC (India)

Paradip Port Authority, in its effort to provide state-of-the-art living facility to employees, workers and residents of the locality, today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NBCC (India) Ltd, a Navratna CPSE, for examination of structural stability of the buildings, improvement of residential quarters including beautification and landscaping works. MoU was signed by H.S.Rout, chief engineer on behalf of PPA and R.N.Sinha, General Manager(Engg.), among others.

Mata Vaishno Devi darshan: Bharat Gaurav special tourist train to run from Kolkata on Aug 11

Kolkata: Bharat Gaurav Special Tourist Train will run from Kolkata Station, West Bengal to Mata Vaishno Devi with Uttar Bharat Darshan Yatra on 11th August, 2023. Bharat Gaurav Special Tourist Train is the first such tourism special train run by IRCTC for the travel enthusiasts. It is in line with the Government of India's initiative "Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat" and "Dekho Apna Desh". The Special Tourist Train will cover Mata Vaishno Devi along with Haridwar-Rishikesh-Golden Temple-Wagah Border-Taj Mahal-Mathura-Vrindavan-Ayodhya.

Ramesh Kumar Dash, Director (Finance), GRSE, honored with best CFO Award

Kolkata: Shri Ramesh Kumar Dash, Director (Finance) at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd. (GRSE), Kolkata, has been recognized with the prestigious Best CFO Award in the category of "Public-Manufacturing-Medium-Male" at the 7th CMA CFO Awards - 2022. The award, presented by The Institute of Cost Accountants of India, acknowledges Shri Dash's exceptional contributions to the financial management of GRSE. The Best CFO Award is a testament to Shri Ramesh Kumar Dash's outstanding achievements in various areas of financial management.

NHAI celebrates 'Azadi Ki Amrit Mahotsav' by tree plantation drive along national highways

Bhubaneswar: A special tree plantation drive was conducted to mark the celebration of 'Azadi ki Amrit Mahotsav' AKAM in honour of the country's 75 years of Independence by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). As a part of this commemoration, 1000 nos. of tall healthy mostly indigenous seedlings were planted at each of the identified17 locations in a single day along the national highways to boost the ambient aesthetics of the National Highways. Similar drive is being carried out nationwide in many different land parcels of NHAI. For the Odisha state mega plantation drives was conducted in NH stretches ofRajamunda to Barkot (NH-143), Bhubaneswar-Puri (NH-316), Chandikhole to Bhadrak (NH-16),Angul to Sambalpur (NH-55), Teleibani to Sambalpur (NH-06) wherein officials of NHAI have participated.

NALCO begins commercial sale of mechanized sow ingots

Bhubaneswar: In an effort to further strengthen its product portfolio Navaratna CPSE National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), has started the commercial sale of mechanized sow ingots in the domestic market after successfully completing a series of trials in the past. The 1st consignment of mechanized sows was formally flagged off by Shri Amiya Kumar Swain, Executive Director(S&P) in the presence of senior officials at NALCO's Smelter Plant at Angul. Worth mentioning that the mechanized sows are free from dross and have larger surface area with a better surface finish, thereby ensuring consistent quality in products manufactured by the secondary industries which are mostly in MSME sector.

Satwik-Chirag enter Korea Open final

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty entered the final of Korea Open super 500 badminton tournament with a thrilling straight-game win over world number two Chinese pair of Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang on Saturday. The world number three Indian pair notched up a 21-15, 24-22 win over the second-seeded Chinese in a 40-minute duel.

Young star shines on the mat but Delhi High Court pours cold water as it refuses to interfere with ad-hoc body's decision; the grappler may move SC

SAD ENDING FOR ANTIM?

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

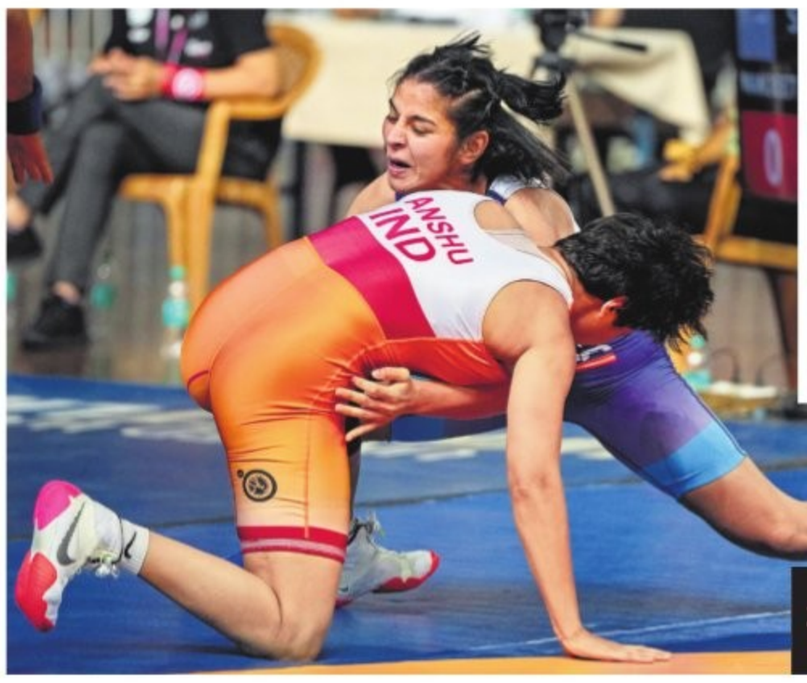
BY then, Antim Panghal had won three bouts in the 53kg weight category to finish first in the ongoing Asian Games selection trials in New Delhi on Saturday. However, the moment she was informed about the Delhi High Court decision, she broke down. The inconsolable 19-year-old wrestler along with Sujeet Kalkal, who competes in the 65kg men's freestyle, had earlier moved the court against the ad-hoc committee's decision to give exemption to Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia from the trials. The single bench of Justice Subramonium Prasad had rejected their writ petition thus upholding the ad-hoc panel's decision. It now means, Antim, despite winning the trials, will be a standby for Vinesh in the Asian Games. For Sujeet, it will remain the same as even if he wins the 65kg trials, he will be a substitute to Bajrang. The trials in men's freestyle are scheduled on Sunday.

"What can we do now? The court has given the verdict,' Ran Niwas, Antim's father, responded when queried about the decision. Though it was learnt that Antim's counsel will move the Supreme Court challenging the Delhi High Court's decision, the same could not be confirmed at the time of going to press. The ad-hoc panel's decision has not only affected Antim and Sujeet. Others in the weight categories too have to let go off their dreams to represent the country at the Asian Games. Vishal Kaliraman is one among them. He along with fellow wrestlers had staged protest against the decision in the past. "He will contest in the trials tomorrow (Sunday). What option does he have? The ad-hoc body today said only top four wrestlers from the six Olympic weight categories in the three styles would be eligible to take part in the World Championships trials scheduled next month. If Vishal skips the trials on Sunday, he wouldn't be eligible for Worlds trials. He has already missed out on a Asian Games berth and I would not suggest him to lose out on a chance to stake his claim in the national squad for Worlds," Parveen Dahiya, chief coach at the iconic Chhatrasal Stadium where Vishal trains, told this daily.

Wrestlers from six Olympic weight categories in each style can only compete in the Asian Games. However, at the Worlds, wrestlers in all 10 weight categories compete in each style. Incidentally, the 2023 Worlds scheduled in Belgrade, Serbia in September is also the first qualifier for the 2024 Paris Olympics. "Sujeet will participate in the trials. I haven't informed him about the court's decision but eventually he will know about it. It's not time to give up. We moved the court but didn't get the respite but that doesn't mean Sujeet will stop contesting," Dayanand Kalkal, Sujeet's father-cum-coach, told this daily.

The only hope for these wrestlers rests on Vinesh and Bajrang's decision. If the duo, who have not spoken on the issue so far, decide to not compete in the Asian Games, then the top wrestler from their respective weight categories can compete at the Asian Games. However, for that to happen, Bajrang and Vinesh have to communicate their decisions at least by Sunday as July 23 is the last date for sending wrestling entries to the Asian Games' Organising Committee.

Full story: newindianexpress.com



(1) Sarita Mor prevailed against Anshu but lost against Mansi Ahlawat who secured her place in the Asian Games team for the 57kg category. (2) Nirmala Devi in action during the Asian Games Wrestling trials in New Delhi on Saturday | PARVEEN NEGI/PTI

RESULTS

Greco-Roman

60kg: 1st Gyanender, 2nd Vikram Kurade; **67kg:** 1st Neeraj, 2nd Ankit Gulia; **77kg:** 1st Vikash, 2nd Karan; **87kg:** 1st Sunil Kumar, 2nd Manoj Kumar; **97kg:** 1st Narinder Cheema, 2nd Nitesh; **130kg:** 1st Naveen, 2nd Pravesh.

Women's wrestling

50kg: 1st Pooja Gehlot, 2nd Nirmala; **53kg:** 1st Antim, 2nd Manju; **57kg:** 1st Mansi, 2nd Sito; **62kg:** 1st Sonam Malik, 2nd Manisha; **68kg:** 1st Radhika, 2nd Priyanka; **76kg:** 1st Kiran, 2nd Divya.

I won the trial fair and square. Why should I be the standby player, I won the trial. The one who did not compete should be standby player in 53kg. My petition has been dismissed but I won't stop, I will keep fighting, we will move the Supreme Court. If she keeps getting direct entries like this, how will one know how good we are. We will keep trying. My coach will decide what we will do next but the fight will continue — Antim told reporters after trials

Bajwa's request leads to revision of WFI election schedule again

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

THE Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) election schedule has been revised once again on Saturday. This time the rescheduling has been done on the request of Bhupender Singh Bajwa, a member of the ad-hoc committee running the WFI.

As per the revised schedule, the last date for receiving the names for electoral college is July 24 by 5 pm. Earlier, in the election notification issued on Friday by the returning officer Justice MM Kumar, retired chief justice of the J&K High Court, the process was deemed completed on June 25, the day when the election process was stayed by the Gauhati High Court on hearing a petition of the Assam Wrestling Association. The stay was later vacated by the Supreme Court paving way for holding the WFI elections. The revised schedule means the preparation and display of the electoral college and circulation to affiliates and publishing the same on website of the Indian Olympic Association and WFI will now be done on July 25. As per Friday's schedule, the process has to be completed by Friday, July 21.

"The preparation and display of the electoral college etc at item no (3) was scheduled to be completed by yesterday (Friday) itself but had to be deferred because shri Bhupender Singh Bajwa, member ad-hoc committee, WFI, sent an intimation accompanied by his affidavit stating that some of the state units did not file their request to make changes in the nomination already sent or could not make fresh nomination as the interim stay order by the Honourable Gauhati High Court was issued at 11 am on 25.6.2023. According to Mr Bajwa these state units felt restraints from filing any request for change in the names already sent or filing fresh nominations. It has therefore been requested that adequate opportunity be granted to everyone to make fresh nomination/seek changes in the nomination already made," reads the order issued by the returning officer on Saturday. The remaining schedule, for now, stays the same with the election, if required, to be held on August 12.

Justice Kumar, however, made it clear citing the WFI constitution that the state units should only send names of their executive members and not ordinary members or outsiders who are not eligible to be nominated. Some experts are questioning Bajwa's motive behind postponing the nomination process. Something that was deferred earlier also. Bajwa remained incommunicado for his comments on the issue.

Now, ad-hoc body gives recognition to Assam unit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

DAYS after the Supreme Court stayed Gauhati High Court order that stalled the election process of the Wrestling Federation of India, the ad-hoc panel granted recognition to the Assam Wrestling Association (AWA). Interestingly, during the hearing of the AWA's petition in Gauhati HC on July 17, no one represented the ad-hoc committee. And the first hearing on June 25 was on a Sunday.

The letter signed by ad-hoc committee member Bhupender Singh Bajwa said, "Having considered your application, through the powers vested in the ad-hoc committee of WFI, you are granted membership of Wrestling Federation of India with immediate effect."

Experts pointed out that the ad-hoc committee member, who was former president of the Wushu Association of India, could have waited for the election process to be over. According to the constitution, the recognition for a state unit is given by the general body.

The Assam unit is elated and felt that something they had been seeking since 1989 has finally materialized. The AWA chief, Ratul Sarma, felt this would be good for the unit. He had earlier said that they went to court because of the players. He informed that the state unit will be part of the WFI with immediate effect.

The date on which the affiliation has been given seems to be interesting as well. The electoral college, according to the revised dates of the Returning Officer, former J&K High Court chief justice, will now be finalised on July 25 and the last date of sending nominations is July 24. It needs to be seen if the RO accepts nominations from this unit and even if he does will it stand in the court of law. The Assam unit had its elections on June 4 this year and had been seeking affiliation since then.

When pointed out that usually an Annual General Meeting of a federation can give affiliation to a new body and in the case of WFI that will take place only after election, Sarma had said during an interaction on June 25 that the 2014 house had accepted its request for affiliation and that should be considered.

Asiad: Focus on doubles team combination

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

ALL of India's leading doubles players have made themselves available for selection for the upcoming Asian Games in what could be a boost to their medal chances, especially in men's doubles. Unlike at the Olympics, the ATP tour doesn't stop. But there is no multi-discipline event without the possibility of a controversy or two with respect to team selection. In 2018, Leander Paes pulled out of the event in the last minute forcing a change of combination in the last event.

While nothing has been formally decided about the team combination vis-a-vis Hangzhou — India gets to pick two teams in men's doubles — the ones in the fray may not get to partner with the players they want. World No 7 Rohan Bopanna may not get to play with his preferred partner. And if he's asked to partner with Yuki Bhambri (the next highest ranked Indian doubles player), that would mean breaking up the pair of Bhambri and Saketh Myneni, who have put together a string of decent results as a pair on tour since coming together last year.

Camp in Lucknow

The plan right now for the squad is to have a pre Asian Games camp in Lucknow following the Davis Cup from September 14-17. "All the players have made themselves available for selection so that's good," captain Rohit Rajpal told this daily. "We haven't decided on the combination, we will do that once we know about the courts and the conditions."

Marnus Labuschagne

Labuschagne smashes century

AP @Machester

JOE ROOT kept England's hopes of a series-leveling win alive in the fourth Ashes Test by dismissing centurion Marnus Labuschagne on a rain-affected fourth day Saturday. The worst fears of a washout at Old Trafford were not realized, with persistent showers finally clearing in time to get play underway at 2:45 p.m. But a stand of 103 between Labuschagne and Mitch Marsh threatened to shut the door on the home side. Labuschagne made a defiant 111 to take the Australian side to 214/5 in 71 overs as the stumps were called early due to rain. But he was finally removed 15 minutes before tea. **Brief scores:** Australia 317 & 214/5 in 71 ovs (Labuschagne 111) vs England 592 in 107.4 ovs.

India strike early on Day three

AGENCIES @Port of Spain

DEBUTANT Mukesh Kumar was rewarded for his nagging channel bowling as his maiden wicket in international cricket gave India something to cheer about as rain forced umpires to take an early lunch on the third day of the second Test here on Saturday. At the time of going to print, the hosts were 171/3 in 83 overs.

Kraigg Brathwaite (75) continued to frustrate the Indian bowlers. The West Indies batters didn't look in any sort of trouble for the 10-odd overs on third morning during which 31 more runs were added. Mukesh, who bowls a line which is right on off-stump or shade outside of it, bowled a fuller delivery and with not enough room to cut fellow debutant Kirk McKenzie (32 off 57 balls) edged it to Ishan Kishan for a regulation catch. McKenzie, who hit four boundaries and a six, looked in fine touch and played with a lot of purpose during his 57-ball stay.

Indian players celebrate the wicket of Tagenarine Chanderpaul on Saturday | AP

With the pitch not having any purchase for either spinners or pacers, it has indeed been a hard toil for the Indian bowlers so far. However, one man who would be itching to get into the wickets column will be left-arm pacer Jaydev Unadkat. The domestic workhorse undoubtedly is the weakest link in the Indian bowling attack as he has so far given away 31 runs in nine wicketless overs so far. More than not getting the wickets, Unadkat hasn't even looked incisive enough to create problems for Brathwaite.

Brief scores (at lunch): India 1st Innings: 438 all out in 128 ovs (Kohli 121; Roach 3/104) vs West Indies 1st Innings 171/3 in 83 ovs (KC Brathwaite 75; Mukesh 1/29).

Inter Miami's Lionel Messi | AP

Hollywood start for Messi's US adventure

AFP @Fort Lauderdale

LIONEL Messi made a Hollywood start to his American adventure, scoring a last-second winner with a curling free-kick in his debut game for Inter Miami on Friday.

Deep in the fourth minute of stoppage time, with the Leagues Cup match against Mexican club Cruz Azul standing at 1-1, Messi won a free-kick just outside the box, in perfect range for his famous left foot. The script had been written and Messi delivered his line perfectly.

INDIA HOCKEY PLAYER'S GOLD MEDAL AUCTIONED OFF

CHENNAI: PETER Paul Fernandes' Olympic gold medal from the 1936 Olympics went under the hammer in an online auction in the US on Thursday. Including buyer's premium, it fetched $25000. Fernandes, who also played first-class cricket in undivided India, was a forward in a team that also had Dhyan Chand and Roop Singh. "The gold medal awarded to Peter Fernandes at the 1936 Berlin Games is one of the most important symbols of debunking Hitler's notions of Aryan supremacy," Robert Livingston, executive vice president at RR Auction was quoted as saying according to a press release. *ENS*

EXPRESS READ

Nagal advances to final of Tampere Open

TAMPERE: Sumit Nagal, seeded seventh, fought off a spirited challenge from unseeded Spaniard Daniel Rincon to secure a final berth in the Tampere Open. The 25-year-old Indian won 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 to enter his fifth Challenger-level final.

Japan cruises to 5-0 win over Zambia

HAMILTON: Hinata Miyazawa scored a pair of goals, while Mina Tanaka and Jun Endo each added a goal and an assist, as Japan shut out Zambia 5-0.

Today's matches: Sweden vs South Africa, Netherlands vs Portugal, France vs Jamaica.

Believe in Bangladesh women — They are here to stay

KALYANI MANGALE @Chennai

ON November 24, 2011, playing at the home ground in Savar, Bangladesh defeated the USA in the ICC Women's World Cup Qualifier. It may seem like any other match from the outside, but it was a momentous occasion for the proud cricketing nation, who earned their ODI status from the governing body. "It means a lot for Bangladesh women's cricket. Things can only get better from here," said then-captain Salma Khatun.

Two days later, on November 26, 2011, Bangladesh played their first-ever ODI against Ireland. If you checked the records, the person who received the first cap was Fargana Hoque. Years later, she became the first from her country to go past 1000 runs in the format. In the final match of the series against India on Saturday, she became the first player from her country to hit a century in the format. If that wasn't enough, she became the first to bat the full 50 overs for the hosts. Looks like being the first is not new for Pinky, as she is affectionately known. With Fargana and her country getting more opportunities than ever before as a part of ODI Championship cycle, we can expect more of this from them.

One look at both white-ball series, Bangladesh have given India a run for their money in every match. Whether it was restricting the T20I World Cup semi-finalist to 95 for eight or winning the T20I against them, Bangladesh held India in this David vs Goliath battle. They topped it with a win against the neighbours in the first ODI. An unlikely tie in the final match, which leveled the series, meant they have fired warning shots that other teams should not take them lightly. Not to forget, the 2022 World Cup in New Zealand was the first time, Bangladesh got the opportunity to compete in the 50-over event. Some of the results might not have gone their way, but they certainly proved that they are not the pushover team. In that tournament they beat Pakistan to register their first win and fought against West Indies till the final over, only to lose by four runs. In fact, they even made eventual champions, Australia, work hard for the win. Now, in their first appearance at the ICC's ODI Championship, they have improved even more under captain Nigar Sultana. "The way girls fought was unbelievable," Sultana said in the post-match presentations. She wasn't exaggerating. If Bangladesh are to qualify for the ODI World Cup in India, they need to be in the top six (top five and hosts) by the end of the Championship cycle. It may look like a difficult task given Sultana-led side has to face the likes of Australia, South Africa and the West Indies. But if this series was any indication, they will take the bull by the horns. "A lot of people have believed in us and have supported us. Please keep believing in us," Fargana requested while receiving the Player of the Series Award. And she's right. You would do yourself a favour to believe that Bangladesh are here to stay.

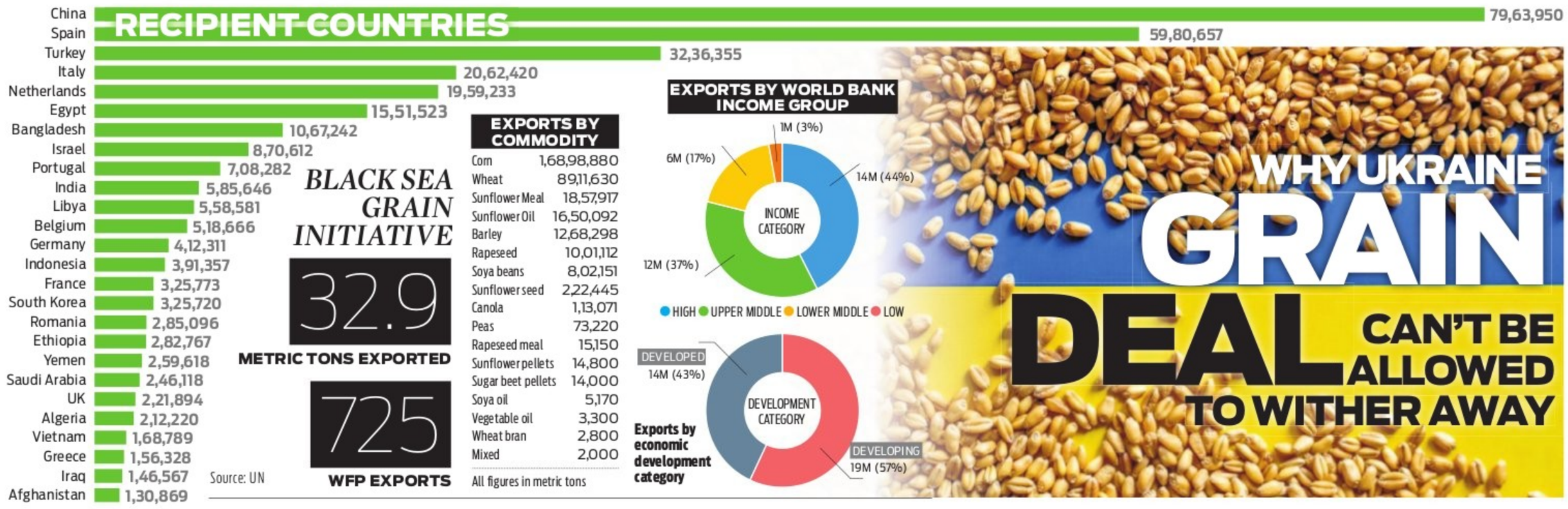
Brief scores: Bangladesh 225/4 in 50 ovs (Fargana 107, Sharmima 52) tied with India 225 all out in 49.3 ovs (Harleen 77).

Fargana Hoque created history with a century | BCB

Irate Kaur loses cool, smashes stumps

India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur has courted controversy after she was adjudged out off a Nahida Akter delivery while trying to sweep. She claimed that the ball hit the bat before hitting the pads. She broke the stumps in disgust and termed the umpiring "pathetic" at post-match presentation.

Russia has repeatedly fired missiles and drones at Ukrainian ports key to sending grain to the world. Moscow has declared Black Sea dangerous for shipping. There is still interest from ship owners in carrying Ukrainian grain through the Black Sea — if they can mitigate the risk, according to a major shipping group



KETAN NAROTTAM TANNA @New Delhi

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin last week pushed the global economy into further turmoil as he withdrew from the Black Sea Grain Initiative that allowed ships the right of way to transport grains produced in war-torn Ukraine. Letting foodgrains from Ukraine reach international markets was vital because of the country's sizable contribution to the global granary. Ukraine's international market share of wheat, maize, barley and sunflower oil were substantial. At an estimated 39.5% of sunflower oil, pre-war Ukraine was the world's biggest exporter of that product. It occupied the fourth position globally in both the export of barley (11.8%) and maize (13.2%). As for wheat, it stood fifth, contributing 8% to the global basket. Blocking Ukrainian grains not only stoked inflation, it made food even more scarce for the poorest of the poor. Wheat futures have already shot up in response to Putin weaponising food. Why did he do so and what are its political and economic consequences?

Black Sea Grain accord

The accord was clinched five months after Russia invaded Ukraine and blocked Ukrainian ports in the Black Sea by planting sea mines along their approaches. A United Nations-brokered humanitarian initiative, the deal was signed on July 22, 2022 in Turkiye's Istanbul. Under the initiative, a joint coordination and inspection centre was set up in Turkiye, with the UN serving as the secretariat. It opened a safe shipping corridor for food through three Ukrainian ports - Odesa, Chornomorsk and Yuzhny/Pivdennyi. Cargo ships from the ports were escorted by Ukraine vessels so as to avoid the mined areas and reach international waters. The first port of call for those cargo ships was Istanbul where the joint coordination team that had members from Russia, Ukraine, Turkey and the UN would together inspect and clear them for their onward journey. A parallel UN accord with Russia allowed the export of its food and fertilisers.

Russia was never comfortable with the Black Sea agreement that had an initial expiry date of November 19, 2022. It withdrew from it for a short while after a drone attack sank its naval ship in the Black Sea and wounded its pride but later yielded.

Russia's grouse

On July 17, Russia blamed its withdrawal from the accord on Western sanctions targeting its nationals and the state agriculture bank. It also complained about its own exports of food and fertiliser getting hampered. Besides, it demanded the Russian Agricultural Bank's re-entry into the SWIFT international payment system.

UN chief Antonio Guterres in his counterpoint recently cited the Russian Union of Grain Exporters and Russian Fertilizer Producers Association as recently claiming that their country's grain trade has reached high export volumes and fertiliser markets are stabilising with Russian exports nearing full recovery. Moscow, however, argued that the lifting of certain sanctions have not been clear enough to give insurers the confidence to underwrite Russian ships that carry food. Russia also wants the assets of its companies dealing with food and fertiliser exports unblocked. On SWIFT, it wants full and direct access without any workaround. The United Nations recently brokered a proposal to enable a subsidiary of the Russian Agricultural Bank regain access to SWIFT with the European Commission within the existing rules, but Putin rejected it.

Russia's other charge is that the Ukrainian grains mostly went to rich nations. To an extent it is right as 90% of corn and 60% of wheat exported under the initiative went to high and upper-middle-income countries; while 10% corn and 40% wheat were bought by low and lower-middle-income countries, according to UN data. But that proportion is in line with Ukraine's trade trend since 2017. Anyway, the initiative did not stipulate deciding the export destination. It left it to the exporters to determine who should get what. Incidentally, China was its biggest buyer. India, too, was a beneficiary of the initiative.

Key achievements

Even if the grains did not go to poor nations in the proportion that would justify the initiative's humanitarian objective, the deal helped stabilise global food prices and cooled them by 23% since March last year, bringing across-the-board relief. About 33 million tonnes of grains were exported from Ukraine to 45 countries across three continents. It allowed the UN-led World Food Programme (WFP) to transport more than 7,25,000 tonnes of wheat to the poor in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. Ukraine's share in WFP's wheat basket was 50% in 2022. This year it was 80%.

Of the grains and other foodstuff exported so far under the initiative, 46% went to Asia, 40% to Western Europe, 12% to Africa and 1% to Eastern Europe. The shipped commodities included corn (51%), wheat (27%), sunflower meal (6%), sunflower oil (5%), barley (4%) and rapeseed (3%).

Should the initiative continue?

UN experts fear the lack of food supplies would produce a knock-on effect for the lives of millions of people, particularly the poorest, hitting them hard in the areas of health, education and social cohesion. There already are grim reports of food shortage at African refugee camps. So, putting the initiative back on track is a global imperative.

The rumbling

The warning bells were already ringing months before Putin pulled the plug. Shipments had come down significantly over the last few months as Russia chose slower inspections. It also got the Yuzhny/Pivdennyi port excluded, which, too, slowed the pace further. While 11 shipments were on an average inspected daily in October 2022, the corresponding figure fell to under five in April, May and June. The UN is said to have the capacity to inspect 40 ships a day. Since the implementation of the scheme was based on consensus, all parties had to agree on any inspection but Russia was not keen to step on the gas.

Alternative route

Ukraine is weighing options to transport its goods overland through the European Danube river ports, but it would raise the logistics costs for farmers. The idea is to transport the grains across Ukraine's border with Poland and take them to ports on the Baltic Sea or via Romania. But the pain point is the rail track as the gauge in Ukraine and Europe are different. It means consignments have to be unloaded at Ukraine's border and reloaded within Europe.

What next

Putin apparently does not want Ukraine to raise revenue through food exports. Of Ukraine's three Black Sea ports that were allowed to function, Yuzhny/Pivdennyi got excluded from the initiative some months ago. Russian missiles are now pounding the Odesa port to demolish the grain infrastructure there. They have already destroyed 60,000 tonnes of grains and oil stored there. The only port left unharmed so far is Chornomorsk. Getting Putin back to the negotiating table is not easy but cannot be given up either. He apparently thinks he has the leverage to extract further concessions. Russia and its ally Belarus control 14% of the global fertiliser market. They could squeeze it if things go out of hand.

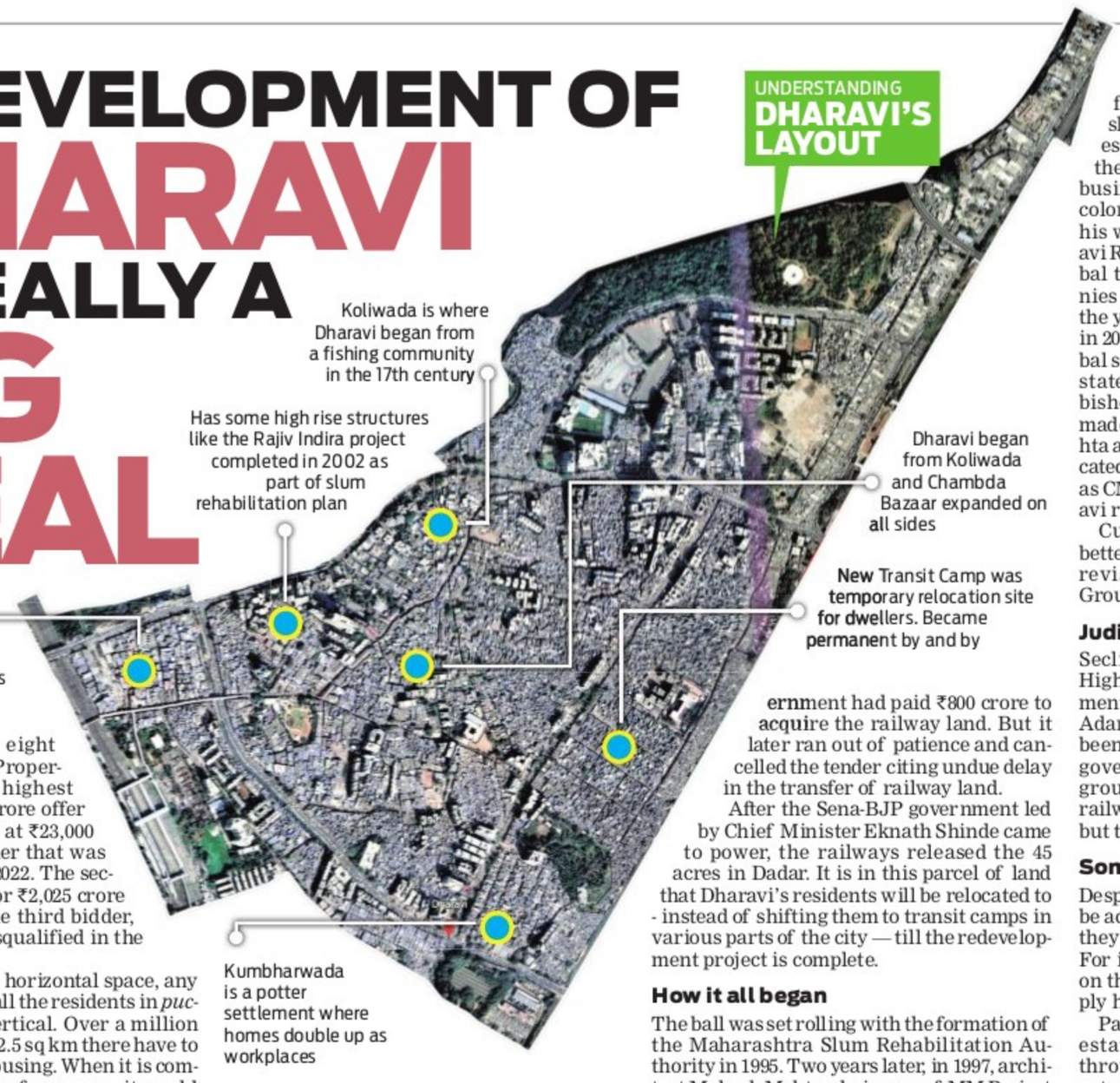
Turkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is optimistic of renegotiating the deal with Putin when he visits Russia next month. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is okay with it. The matter could possibly come up during the forthcoming BRICS summit in South Africa, which Putin will attend through video conferencing so as to duck an international arrest warrant against him. Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate. It could be time for a fresh shot at diplomacy.

India's position

A day after Russia withdrew from the grain deal, India's permanent representative at the UN Ruchira Kamboj expressed hope for an early resolution of the impasse.

REDEVELOPMENT OF DHARAVI IS REALLY A BIG DEAL

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai


UNDERSTANDING DHARAVI'S LAYOUT
Koliwada is where Dharavi began from a fishing community in the 17th century
Has some high rise structures like the Rajiv Indira project completed in 2002 as part of slum rehabilitation plan
Dharavi began from Koliwada and Chambda Bazaar expanded on all sides
New Transit Camp was temporary relocation site for dwellers. Became permanent by and by
13th Compound is where the recycling industry is located. Mumbai's plastic waste is recycled here
Kumbharwada is a potter settlement where homes double up as workplaces

DHARAVI in Mumbai is synonymous with slum, filth, humongous population density, open drains and little sanitation but also a lot of pluck and enterprise. It is not just residential. The slum settling also comprises an informal industrial township spread over 240.35 hectares in the heart of Mumbai overlooking the Bandra Kurla Complex, which is among the toniest of business centres in India. The national reality of two Indias—of the poor sandwiched between the rich—couldn't have had a better setting. Small but significant cottage and small scale industries like garment manufacturing, plastic recycling, leather, pottery and food products function out of this dingy shanty cluster. It has an estimated 15,000 single-room factories and 5,000 businesses. Besides, it is a rich source of cheap labour. Most of Mumbai's drivers, car washers, maids and housing-keeping staff for various up-market business houses in posh South Mumbai call Dharavi their home. Imagine 8-10 people living in a cramped 100 sq ft shanty, that is Dharavi for you. At 3,54,167 people per sq km, its population density is among the highest in the world. Over the years, a significant percentage of settlers in Dharavi from all over the country brought with them special skill-sets and became self-employed, like the tanners from Tamil Nadu, artisans from UP and potters from Gujarat. This busy hive of activity is about to be disrupted, as they are to be relocated to an adjacent parcel of land till Dharavi is redeveloped for both housing and the industrial purposes.

Covid fight model

When coronavirus struck and India went into lockdown, people in slums like Dharavi had nowhere to hide. Mandatory social distancing couldn't apply there because of the thick population cluster. Lax hygiene—an estimated 80% of its residents use community toilets—further complicated matters. Soon enough, the slum became an infection hotspot. But aggressive tracking, testing, treating and isolation brought the virus rate down in a couple of years. It was celebrated globally as the Dharavi model for combating Covid. The slum's population density, too, helped expedite herd immunity.

Adani contract

Back to the present, after umpteen false starts over two decades, decks have finally been cleared for the redevelopment of Dharavi. On July 13, a government resolution announced the award of the slum redevelopment project to the Adani Group. The announcement came eight months after Adani Properties emerged as the highest bidder with a ₹5,069 crore offer for the project valued at ₹23,000 crore in a global tender that was opened in November 2022. The second highest bid was for ₹2,025 crore by the DLF group. The third bidder, Shree Nadam, was disqualified in the technical round itself.

Since Dharavi lacks horizontal space, any plan to accommodate all the residents in *pucca* houses has to go vertical. Over a million people living in about 2.5 sq km there have to be given alternative housing. When it is complete, say seven years from now, it could count as one of the world's largest urban resettlement and regeneration projects. After redevelopment, each registered slum dweller family is expected to get a free house in a high rise measuring around 450 sq ft. Equally challenging is the task of ensuring that livelihoods are not uprooted. Adani Properties says it is committed to dovetail diverse commercial establishments of various sizes and scales into the redevelopment plan as well. The rehabilitation of ineligible residents, too, has to be addressed.

The ambitious project includes providing amenities like gas, water, electricity, sanitation and drainage to all houses. That apart, there would be recreational facilities and open spaces. Residents have been promised access to a good hospital and school.

2019 contract

Move the calendar back by a few years and you find a 2019 tender that preceded the one in 2022. In the 2019 tender, the Adani Group lost the race with a bid of ₹4,529 crore as against Dubai-based Seclink Group's ₹7,200 crore. However, that tender was scrapped as 45 acres of adjacent railway land was not part of the papers though it was to be acquired for relocating Dharaviites. When Uddhav Thackeray was chief minister, his government had paid ₹800 crore to acquire the railway land. But it later ran out of patience and cancelled the tender citing undue delay in the transfer of railway land.

After the Sena-BJP government led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde came to power, the railways released the 45 acres in Dadar. It is in this parcel of land that Dharavi's residents will be relocated to - instead of shifting them to transit camps in various parts of the city — till the redevelopment project is complete.

How it all began

The ball was set rolling with the formation of the Maharashtra Slum Rehabilitation Authority in 1995. Two years later, in 1997, architect Mukesh Mehta, chairman of MM Project Consultants Private Ltd, proposed developing Dharavi as an integrated township. Accordingly, the Dharavi Redevelopment Project was first announced by late Maharashtra chief minister Vilasrao Deshmukh in 2003-04. His government adopted a resolution to approve an action plan for the redevelopment on February 4, 2004. The plan included using land as a resource to cross-subsidise the cost of development through a sale component by breaking it up into sectors and appointing different developers for them. His government also notified the whole of Dharavi as undeveloped and appointed a Special Planning Authority for planning and development.

Deshmukh said the idea was to transform the lives of Dharavi residents by shifting them from the slums to high rises. He intended to convert large parts of the Dharavi landscape into a world class business centre with high rise residential colonies and commercial complexes. Under his watch as CM, the state formed the Dharavi Redevelopment Authority and floated global tenders in 2007. As many as 101 companies took part in the process. However, over the years, the project languished and finally in 2011, the tender was cancelled citing a global slowdown. In the interregnum, in 2009, a state-appointed experts' committee rubbished the Dharavi Redevelopment Project, made adverse remarks against Mukesh Mehta and called the scheme a form of sophisticated land grab. Deshmukh served two terms as CM from 1999 to 2008. His dreams for Dharavi redevelopment stayed just that way.

Cut to the 2019 tender, and Seclink had a better bid than Adani but it was scrapped. A revised 2022 tender followed and Adani Group won the contract.

Judicial challenge

Seclink has since approached the Bombay High Court challenging the July 13 government resolution awarding the project to the Adani Group. Seclink claimed it would have been the successful bidder in 2019 had the government not cancelled it on technical grounds. It argued it was ready to pay the railway land cost and other expenses as well, but the state government brushed it aside.

Some concerns

Despite assurance that all the industries will be accommodated, the slum's dwellers claim they are not clear about its granular details. For instance, if a potter were to get a house on the 10th floor, he would hardly be able to ply his trade as his products are fragile.

Pankaj Kapoor, MD and chairman of real estate research firm Liases Foras said through the project, Adani Properties will get around 1 lakh sq ft, out of which 30,000 sq ft will go for rehabilitation while 70,000 sq ft would be used for saleable residential and commercial properties in cross-subsidisation. "Dharavi is a thriving informal economy. It will be destroyed if skyscrapers come up," he warned. His other concern was about the 70 lakh sq ft saleable area, 50% of which he reckons would be developed as residential properties. "35 lakh sq ft of residential area means 3,500 two-BHK units that could enter the market at a ticket price of about ₹30,000 per sq ft. Each unit would cost at least ₹3 crore. There is no developer in Mumbai at present who can sell such a large number of units," Kapoor claimed.